

STARS AND STRIPES®

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mourns as school
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readies SETAF
for deployment**

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Brig. Gen. Jason Kamiya

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2004

50¢

August's combat injury toll highest since war began

Month brings about 1,100 wounded U.S. troops in Iraq Page 3



ABOVE: AP; RIGHT: PALM BEACH (FLA.) POST/AP

The fury of Frances

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Hurricane Frances weakened to a Category 1 on Sunday but still pounded Florida with high wind and rain. Forecasters warned that Frances' path would take the center of the hurricane over the warm water of the northeastern Gulf of Mexico and the storm possibly could regain intensity by Monday morning.

Above: Sailboats washed ashore Sunday rest in a parking lot in Fort Pierce, Fla.

Right: Rich Minyon, left, and his brother, Jack, fight winds as the storm moves across the Indian River on Saturday in Jensen Beach, Fla.



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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

Nation

Camp counselor slayings: Two camp counselors killed on a California beach were remembered Saturday for their strong Christian faith as family and friends gathered to honor the couple who had planned to marry.

Lindsay Cutshall, 23, and her fiancé, Jason Allen, 26, were found Aug. 18 on a secluded beach along the Northern California coast. Both had been shot in the head while lying in sleeping bags.

Investigators have no suspects.

Mail-bomb plot: The FBI is investigating how a Somali man was treated while being held on immigration charges prior to his terrorism-related indictment, a bureau spokesman said.

Nuradin Abdi, 32, was indicted June 14 on charges of plotting with others to blow up an unspecified Columbus shopping mall. He had been arrested seven months earlier and held on immigration charges. Abdi was held mostly in county jails in Ohio during the seven months, his attorneys said.

FBI spokesman Gregory Palmore said Friday that the FBI is investigating Abdi's treatment during that time.

Abdi attorney Mahir T. Sherif has said he was upset at his client's treatment in jail. He said Friday that he believes Abdi is seriously ill and needs treatment.

Church abuse claims: A judge has thrown out several claims of sexual abuse involving a Roman Catholic priest in Northern California, striking a potential blow to hundreds of men and women who allege they were molested while diocese officials looked the other way.

Judge Ronald Sabraw said plaintiffs' attorneys denied he did not present any direct evidence the church "knew or had reason to know," or were otherwise on notice, of any unlawful sexual conduct by the priest, who is now dead. The claims were part of a consolidated lawsuit involving 160 complaints against Northern California clergy.

Va. death row inmate: A federal judge Friday denied a death row inmate's attempt to delay his execution for a second time on the grounds that putting him to death by injection would be unconstitutionally cruel.

James Edward Reid's lawyers claimed that Virginia's method of execution was unconstitutional because it was possible Reid could still be conscious when the last of three drugs is administered and would suffer pain before he dies.

U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson said in his ruling that the procedure would kill the defendant within five to 10 minutes and reduce the chance that he would be conscious of any pain to less than 6/1000 of 1 percent.

Arizona prison standoff: A special prosecutor who led the grand jury investigation into a 15-day prison standoff is under an ethics review after a judge accused him of misconduct in the case, the State Bar of Arizona said Friday.

A judge last month accused Special Prosecutor A. Melvin McDonald of misconduct for creating a "media carousel" for the release of the grand jury report into the January standoff, during which two guards were taken hostage and assaulted. One of the



California wildfires: The Geysers fire is viewed in the distance off Highway 128, near the Santa Angeline Ranch in the Mayamacas Mountains of northeast Sonoma County, Calif. The Sonoma County fire, which started Friday near The Geysers, the world's largest geothermal power facility, destroyed 11 homes and threatened wineries and hundreds of homes.

guards was raped.

McDonald had publicly released a motion to unseal the panel's report, but Presiding Judge Colin Campbell denied the request, saying releasing the report would undermine the purpose of secret grand juries.

Bugging of Philadelphia mayor: Two aides to Mayor John F. Street said his staff was tipped off last fall about an FBI bug that had been placed in his office, contradicting earlier statements by the city's top police official and mayoral advisers who said they knew nothing about the listening device before it was found.

Installed in mid-September as part of an anti-corruption probe, the bug was found Oct. 7 by police who had been ordered to sweep the mayoral suite by Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson.

The tip apparently came first to Street's communication director, Barbara Grant, her attorney said Friday.

World

Balkans war-crimes tribunal: Still reluctant to catch and extradite suspects wanted by a U.N. war-crimes court, Serbia's Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica urged the men to surrender voluntarily to the international tribunal in comments published Sunday.

Kostunica spoke as Western pressure continues to build on Serbia to hand over more than a dozen wanted men indicted in connection with the Balkan wars of the 1990s or risk renewed isolation.

West Bank barrier: Israel began construction Sunday of a section of its separation barrier in the southern West Bank, days after Palestinian suicide bombers carried out an attack from the area.

Israeli security officials confirmed that work started on a 20-mile stretch of barrier southwest of Hebron.

Meanwhile, Palestinian gunmen seized the local government offices in a southern Gaza town for several hours Sunday, demanding that the Palestinian Authority do more to help families left homeless by an Israeli military operation last week, witnesses and militants said.

The militants led the Khan Younis governor's office after receiving "concrete promises" that the problem will be solved soon, a gunmen told The Associated Press.

India-Pakistan talks: India and Pakistan

opened high-level talks Sunday aimed at solving their decades-old dispute over Kashmir with Pakistan denying it arms and trains a separatist insurgency in the region and accusing India of human rights abuses there. The war of words over Kashmir — the cause of two major armed conflicts between the nuclear-armed rivals — threatened to complicate the wide-ranging talks between Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri and his Indian counterpart, Natwar Singh.

Freed Malaysian leader: Several thousand supporters of newly freed former deputy leader Anwar Ibrahim brought Malaysian's main airport terminal to a standstill in a potent reminder of the charismatic way he holds over the country.

The crowds overwhelmed airport security as they surged toward Anwar's gold-colored Mercedes-Benz when he arrived for a flight to Germany, where he will undergo back surgery for an injury suffered partly during a police beating six years ago.

Darfur crisis: Sudan's foreign minister said his country does not object to increased numbers of foreign cease-fire monitors, plus troops to protect them, being deployed to crisis-torn Darfur. Mustafa Osman Ismail's comments on Saturday follow U.N. calls on his government to allow more than 3,000 troops enter Darfur, something which Khartoum has yet to sanction.

War on terror

Australian Gitmo detainees: Australia will urge the United States to tighten legal procedures governing the trials of two Australian terror suspects detained at a U.S. military base in Cuba, the government said Sunday in an apparent about-face on the issue. Prime Minister John Howard has long rejected calls for David Hicks and Mamdouh Habib to be returned to Australia for trial.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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U.S. forces injured in 'intense' August

Number of wounded soldiers, Marines highest since war in Iraq began

By KARL VICK

The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — About 1,100 U.S. soldiers and Marines were wounded in Iraq during August, by far the highest combat injury toll for any month since the war began and an indication of the intensity of battles flaring in urban areas.

U.S. medical commanders say the sharp rise in battlefield injuries reflects more than three weeks of fighting by one Marine and two Army battalions in the southern city of Najaf. At the same time, U.S. units frequently faced combat in a sprawling Shiite Muslim slum in Baghdad and in the Sunni cities of Fallujah, Ramadi and Samarra, all of which were under the control of insurgents two months after the transfer of political authority.

"They were doing battlefield urban operations in four places at one time," said Lt. Col. Albert Maas, operations officer for the 2nd Medical Brigade, which oversees U.S. combat hospitals in Iraq. "It's like working in downtown Detroit. You're going literally building to building."

The sharp rise in wounded was, for the first time, accompanied by a far less steep climb in battlefield fatalities. Since the start of the war in March 2003, 979 U.S. forces have died in Iraq and al-

most 7,000 have been wounded. Until last month, however, the monthly tallies of fatalities and wounded rose and fell roughly proportionally.

In August, 66 U.S. service personnel were killed in Iraq, according to the Defense Department. The toll was the highest since May, when 80 fatalities were recorded. But it was well below the 135 U.S. combat deaths in April, when a sporadic guerrilla war that had largely been confined to the so-called "Sunni Triangle" north and west of Baghdad spread to cities across the previously quiescent Shiite Muslim belt in southern Iraq.

Commanders said they had no immediate concrete explanation for why the number of wounded increased so sharply without a comparable, parallel rise in combat deaths.

"All I know is I've got more patients here," said Col. Rycyk Beitz, commander of the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, which admitted 425 patients last month, a new high.

One possible explanation lay in the brown some units brought to the fight in crowded city centers. In Najaf, for example, two of the three U.S. battalions fighting were in close quarters against a Shiite militia were categorized as "heavy armored." Army officers

said their Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles not only offer substantial protection from incoming fire, but also answered with immediate and overwhelming large-caliber salvos.

"We've been given the best tools in the world for waging war," said Maj. Tim Karcher of the 1st Battalion of the 1st Cavalry Division's 7th Regiment. In two weeks of almost constant combat, the heavily armored battalion sustained several injuries, but not a single fatality, as it fought its way through Najaf's crowded old city.

Maj. Dellone Pascasio, who compares tallies of U.S. wounded across Iraq, said injuries sustained in conventional fighting may tend to be slightly less severe than those inflicted by IEDs, the improvised explosive devices planted along roadsides that continue to kill and maim U.S. forces by spraying shrapnel upward.

There also were indications that troops suffered more severe wounds in August than in previous months.

At the Baghdad hospital, staff members are accustomed to seeing the most severely injured soldiers and Marines. The hospital, the only in Iraq where the military's brain and eye surgeons work, handles the worst head wounds. Normally, perhaps half of the patients who come to the

emergency room qualify as "acute" cases, a term that indicates severity and urgency.

"A soldier who comes in and is almost bleeding to death will require more care than someone who is just shot with a bullet," Beitz explained.

In August, however, the rate of acute cases jumped to three of four ER patients.

"It was intense," said Lt. Col. Greg Kidwell, who oversees the emergency room at the hospital.

Capt. Neal Taufen, an emergency room physician, said the pace was all the more striking because it came after a quiet stretch.

"July was just dull, and it was like: Everything's going to be all right. And then Najaf fired up, and it was just like nothing had ever changed," said Taufen, of Fort Sill, Okla.

Najaf and the neighboring town of Kufa, about 90 miles south of Baghdad, have been quiet since a peace deal was brokered in late August by Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani. Last week, an informal cease-fire also took hold in Sadr City, the Shiite slum that is the main stronghold of junior cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and his Mahdi Army militia, which fought in Najaf.

But U.S. forces continued to clash with Sunni Muslim insurgents and foreign-born fighters west and north of Baghdad. Twenty-

six Marines were killed during August in Anbar province, which takes in Fallujah and Ramadi and extends across the western desert to the Syrian border.

Insurgents hold sway in both cities and routinely attack U.S. patrols.

"It's always kind of a smoldering light out there," Kidwell said.

Parts of Baghdad also remain combat zones.

Propped on pillows in a ward of the Baghdad combat hospital Saturday afternoon, Spec. Christopher Rieng, 19, wore a zipper of surgical staples up his abdomen after a nasty surprise the night before off the capital's hostile Haifa Street.

"I yelled 'grenade!' and made sure the Iraq translator took off," he said, describing the overnight ambush that left him with a belly full of steel shards. "Then I took off a grenade I couldn't outrun the grenade."

The interpreter also was injured, as were four other 1st Cavalry soldiers caught in the alley when grenades began raining down.

"Almost everybody took shrapnel," said Capt. Chris Ford, the company commander. Three soldiers were injured lightly enough to return to duty after treatment, a 40 percent rate, he said. U.S. forces wounded in Iraq two others needed medical evacuation. The interpreter went home.

Iraqi forces claim top Saddam aide arrested

Iraq's defense minister says reports are 'baseless'

By DANICA KIRKA

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi authorities claimed on Sunday to have captured Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, the most wanted member of Saddam Hussein's ousted dictatorship, but there was confusion over the report, as the Iraqi defense minister said word of his arrest was "baseless."

Meanwhile, a mortar barrage Sunday evening hit a U.S. base on the western edge of Baghdad, killing two U.S. soldiers and wounding 16 others, one critically, Maj. Richard Spiegel of the Army's 13th Corps Support Command said.

The soldiers killed and wounded all belonged to the 13th Corps Support, which oversees distribution of fuel, food and water to U.S. forces.

Also, a car bomb exploded outside an air base by U.S. forces near Dijlah, about 25 miles north of Baghdad, injuring one American soldier and two Iraqi civilians, the U.S. military said. Three suspects were detained near the site of the attack, said Army Sgt. Robert Powell.

There have been incorrect reports of al-Douri's arrest in the past as U.S. and Iraqi forces hunt for the man who was once one of Saddam's most senior deputies. Sunday's report centered on a raid near al-Douri's hometown of Adwar, north of Baghdad.

Iraq's top information official said al-Douri was seized while receiving medical treatment at a clinic near Adwar and that DNA tests were underway to confirm his identity. Al-Douri reportedly suffers from leukemia, and needs blood transfusions.

"We are sure he is Izzat Ibrahim," information official Ibrahim Janabi said. "He was arrested in a clinic in Mahdoul near Tikrit and Adwar and 60 percent of the DNA test has finished."

A Defense Ministry spokesman, Saleh Sarhan, also said the U.S.-funded Alhurra television station that al-Douri had been captured.

Later, however, the Iraqi defense minister, Hazem Shaalan, said in an interview with Lebanon's Al Hayat-LBC television that reports that Izzat Ibrahim was captured were "baseless."

"We don't have any information on this subject or on the reports that allegedly came out from the defense ministry," he said.

"They are baseless. There are search operations by the national guards troops and multinational troops going on during which some terrorist positions were shelled. There were rumors that Izzat al-Douri or someone who resembles him were in that position but we don't have any information on Iraq specifically," he said.

U.S. Maj. Neal O'Brien of the Tikrit-based 1st Infantry Division said he could not confirm the report and U.S.-led forces issued a statement saying he was not in U.S. custody. A senior U.S. diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Americans had no information to indicate that al-Douri had been arrested.

Iraqi Minister of State Qasim Dawoud also claimed that al-Douri was arrested and said 150 men defending him also were detained.

U.S. military officials believe al-Douri, once the vice chairman of the Baath Party's Revolutionary Command Council,



IZZAT IBRAHIM AL-DURI
RCC Vice Chairman

Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, No. 6 on the U.S. list of most-wanted Iraqis, is pictured on the deck of cards put out by the U.S. military to help capture Saddam Hussein's former officials.

played an organizing role in the 16-month-old insurgency.

He is No. 6 on the U.S. military's list of 55 most-wanted figures from Saddam's regime and U.S. forces have offered a \$10 million bounty for his arrest. Forty-four of the people on the list already have been killed or captured.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 976 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 730 died as a result of hostile action and 246 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 64 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, 11; Poland, 10; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 838 U.S. servicemen have died — 621 as a result of hostile action and 217 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers Friday. There was no update provided on Saturday.

The latest deaths reported by the military: No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Perez, 19, Austin, Texas, died Friday from enemy action in Iraq's Anbar province, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms, Calif.

■ Marine Capt. Alan Rowe, 35, Hagerman, Idaho, died Friday from enemy action in Iraq's Anbar province, assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms, Calif.

CPO indoctrination doesn't stop at war zone

Sailors continue with training in Iraq

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

CAMP DUKE, Iraq — More than a dozen sailors assigned to units throughout Iraq are finding that the Navy's traditional initiation process for those selected for promotion to chief petty officer doesn't stop in a combat zone.

Three of these sailors are going through initiation at Camp Duke near Najaf.

"They go through physical training, CPO indoctrination, and we have Friday mentorship training, as we call it," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Ernesto Zabarte, the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's medical planner.

In addition to the Navy-required CPO indoctrination class and a computer-based management course, the selectees, as they are called, are given Navy- or leadership-related tasks by their chiefs to round out their training.

Some of these tasks, Zabarte said, can be difficult to complete in the desert.

"They're very short on resources," said Zabarte. "As CPOs, wherever they're at or whatever challenges they face, they'll need to come up with the solution to get the task done."

One leadership task, the creation of a management plan for an infantry division of sailors out of hard-boiled eggs, had to be adjusted. Camp Duke's selectees used round rocks, which are poured out of sand and dirt to keep the dust down and are therefore plentiful.

"We've used all of our resources," said chief selectee Petty Officer

er 1st Class Billy Hammond, a chaplain's assistant with the MEU.

Other tasks range from researching Navy history or uniform regulations. For these, the selectees say that the Internet is a lifesaver, or at least a push-up saver. Failed tasks are usually "remedied" by exercise.

"There's a lot of research," said chief selectee Petty Officer 1st Class Roger Teel. "Without the Internet we'd be in trouble."

The challenges of getting these tasks done have brought the three closer, another goal of the initiation process.

"We're starting to bond," said Teel, a corpsman with 17 years in the Navy. "But it's a slow process."

Slow, but necessary, said Chief Petty Officer George Frausto. "I think it's extremely important," he said. "We're teaching them how to network, be a team and function under stressful situations. Given the circumstances, they're progressing well."

Working through the stressful situations now, the selectees realize, is better than learning after they've already been promoted.

"You learn something from your mistakes, correct the mistakes and move on," said chief selectee Petty Officer 1st Class Jeff Cavallo, 40, a 15-year Navy veteran. "You don't make the same mistake twice."

Even with the mistakes, the stress and the extra workload, the selectees say they've enjoyed the time.

"Fun! Oh yeah," said Teel.

E-mail: Jason Chudy at chudy@jason.ustripes.osd.mil



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Navy chief petty officer selectees, from left, Jeff Cavallo, Roger Teel and Billy Hammond do push-ups as part of their initiation process. The three sailors are assigned to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit at Camp Duke, Iraq.

Promotion selectees undergo six-week process

Each July, the list of those selected for promotion to Navy chief petty officer is released, and those first class petty officers then face the six-week initiation process.

The 3,900 active-duty sailors selected for promotion to chief petty officer this year have specific requirements to complete before they receive their chief's anchors Sept. 16.

"The initiation process is based on the master chief petty officer of the Navy's guidance to ensure that the transition is a journey from first class to chief," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Ernesto Zabarte, the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's medical planner at Camp Duke, Iraq.

"It's clear-cut, with no deviation."

The selectees must attend a chief petty officer indoctrination course, which covers a wide variety of subjects from naval history to chief's uniforms. They also must complete a computer-based management program.

In addition to the required courses, sailors also carry charge books in which other chief petty officers pass on advice and guidance.

Charge books came about during World War II when ship commanding officers were able to promote individual sailors to chief. The prospective chief, when required to know about the entire ship, so the sailors took the charge books to each chief on board who would then pass on in-

formation about their jobs or give guidance on leadership.

Once every chief signed the book, the commanding officer could be reasonably sure that the sailor had an understanding of how the ship operated.

Today the charge books are used less for general shipboard knowledge, but more for leadership advice. It also gives the selectees a chance to individually meet with all of their command's chiefs.

Selectees may also manage an imaginary division of sailors, sometimes represented by hard-boiled eggs or even rocks, handling all the paperwork and tasks they could expect as the chief of a real division.

— Jason Chudy

Militants ask Muslim association for religious edict on kidnappings

BY BASSEM MROUE

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An Iraqi militant group appealed Sunday to an influential Sunni Muslim organization for a *fatwa* or religious edict, on whether the kidnapping of foreigners who work for occupation forces is acceptable under Islam.

A spokesman for the Association of Muslim Scholars said its clerics will study the militants' request, saying the issue was "not easy" and needs "profound study."

The militants' appeal came as a Turkish transport company and a Kuwaiti firm that contracted it announced Sunday they have stopped doing business in Iraq in an attempt to secure the release of a Turkish driver taken hostage by Iraqi militants and under a threat of beheading.

In a fresh kidnapping report, an Iraqi militant group said it has abducted four Jordanian

truck drivers who it claims were delivering items for U.S. forces in Iraq, according to a tape obtained by the Al-Jazeera TV station.

Also Sunday, a slain Egyptian kidnapping victim was found near Beirut, about 150 miles north of Baghdad, his hands bound and signs of a beating on his corpse, said Iraqi Maj. Gen. Anwar Mohsen.

Militants waging a 16-month insurgency have increasingly turned to kidnapping to force coalition forces and contractors from the country. More than 100 foreigners have been abducted since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003 and many have been executed.

The Arab television station Al-Arabiya on Sunday aired a videotape showed a masked man identifying himself as a member of the group "Holders of the Black Banners," reading a statement seeking a *fatwa* from the Association of Muslim Scholars in Iraq.

The militants asked whether Islam permits the kidnapping and killing of foreigners who work for occupation forces, saying the association should "issue a legal *fatwa* defining this issue, and we are ready to abide by it."

A number of Sunni insurgent groups are believed behind most of the abductions, and it was not known whether other groups would follow such a *fatwa*.

The French government, meanwhile, huddled in crisis talks over the fate of two French reporters held hostage by a separate group in Iraq and said it was still hopeful the pair would be released.

In the past week, militants have killed an Italian journalist and 12 Nepalese workers, while seven truckers from India, Kenya and Egypt were released after their Kuwaiti employer paid a \$500,000 ransom. A video last week also showed three Turks being killed by their captors.

Abizaid, Yemen officials discuss security issues

The Associated Press

SANA'A, Yemen — The top U.S. military official in the region visited this American ally in the war on terror Sunday to discuss security cooperation with the Yemeni president and equipping a new U.S.-trained coast guard unit.

Gen. John Abizaid, head of the U.S. Central Command, and President Ali Abdullah Saleh also discussed efforts of "countering acts of terror and sabotage," the official Saba news agency reported.

The agency said the meeting was attended by Yemen's interior minister, intelligence and army chiefs and the U.S. ambassador to Yemen, which is the ancestral homeland of al-Qaida terror network leader Osama bin Laden, who has been blamed for masterminding the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

A U.S. Embassy official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Abizaid later left this Red Sea nation. No details were available on where he went to.

Although its government supports the U.S.-led war on terror, Yemen has long been a hot bed of Islamic militancy and has suffered several militant attacks in recent years, notably the 2000 bombing of the destroyer USS Cole that killed 17 American sailors and the October 2002 suicide bombing of a French oil tanker that killed a Bulgarian crewmember and spilled 900,000 barrels of oil into the Gulf of Aden.

Military cooperation between Yemen and the United States, particularly in training, equipping and making available spare parts for a coast guard unit was discussed, the agency said.

Earlier this year, the United States supplied the coast guard unit with eight boats costing an estimated \$60 million in an effort to secure the country's long marine frontier and prevent the infiltration of terrorists.

Abizaid's visit follows the recent approval by the United States of the sale of military equipment to Yemen after more than a decade of a nearly total ban.

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5. **NEVER** go in front of or behind the bus



SEtAF leader eager to attack base issues

Brig. Gen. Kamiya helps weave planning for deployment with day-to-day achievements

By KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — It's standard procedure for incoming commanders to put their own touches on their new unit or community.

But it doesn't take a member of TV's "Crime Scene Investigation" squad to spot the fingerprints Brig. Gen. Jason Kamiya has left all over his new post.

"Sometimes it takes the senior leader to jump in there and at least get the momentum going," said Kamiya, who took over command of the Southern European Task Force (Airborne) on April 30.

Jumping is something they do quite a bit of at Vicenza. But Kamiya isn't referring to a leap from a plane with a parachute. Instead, he's talking about an array of issues he's trying to get resolved — or at least in the pipeline — before most of the base's active-duty population deploys to Afghanistan early next year.

Kamiya says he has three general objectives at present: address ongoing problems at Caserma Ederle; plan for the yearlong mission to Afghanistan; and lay the groundwork for an additional 2,000 troops coming to northern Italy.

He'll talk about the latter two — which he refers to as his "midterm" and "long-term" challenges — mostly in general terms. Military leaders aren't fond of discussing plans for upcoming operations, and a series of talks are still to be held with the Italian government before announcements are made on where new troops will be based.

■ Kamiya appears eager to discuss a series of moves that SETAF and the 22nd Area Support Group are exploring to tackle a number of nagging issues:

■ Parking. There are about 7,000 vehicles registered at Caserma Ederle, with about 2,000 parking spaces on base, with some of those closed off by an array of construction projects. Officials are looking at off-base options and expanding the hours and scope of the current shuttle-bus program.

■ Haircuts. Soldiers complained they have to wait hours sometimes at the Army and Air Force Exchange's small shop. So another barber has been hired to set up shop in the 173rd Airborne Brigade headquarters. More will follow.



Brig. Gen. Jason Kamiya

■ Paperwork. Some space at the Golden Lion community club will soon be devoted to a facility where most, if not all, of in-processing and outprocessing takes place.

■ Interagency cooperation. Kamiya said several issues could be solved if sometimes competing operations went from a "culture of ownership to a culture of enterprise" — in other words, share their resources and cooperate.

Kamiya admits there are probably dozens of other issues that concern community members. So the base will hold monthly Community Action Council meetings where people can grab a microphone and face away.

Asked if he'll personally attend such meetings — the first is set for Sept. 22 — Kamiya said: "I attended every single one at Fort Polk."

He said the process would work better for all concerned if those with issues send a message through the base's Web site a few weeks before the meeting. That way, issues can be researched and addressed at the meetings.

But he doesn't expect a smooth ride, at least initially, calling the initiative "kind of like leading with your chin."

The base's biggest focus, though, may be on family support efforts.

Design for troop expansion in Italy by 2010 not yet set

By KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — If all goes according to plan, there will be about twice as many U.S. soldiers stationed in Italy in 2010 as there are now.

Details of that plan aren't complete, though. The Pentagon has announced that it will add 2,000 troops — a battalion and other support elements — to the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

How that will be done, when it will be done and where it will be done are still not clear.

Brig. Gen. Jason Kamiya, the commander of the Southern European Task Force (Airborne), said much of that depends on ongoing talks with the host country. Americans in Italy work — and sometimes live — on bases owned by the Italian military.

The "where" in the equation will likely not be at Caserma Ederle, the current headquarters for both the 173rd and SETAF.

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist to discover we have space issues here," Kamiya said.

It's possible that the troops could go to other bases in northern Italy, such as Camp Darby — where there's room but no facilities — or Aviano Air Base —

Elements across the base pulled together during the 173rd's Marching deployment to Iraq that ended in March. Now they'll have to do it again — with even more troops gone — in early spring.

"My sense is that regardless of how well we did, there's always ways to improve and lessons to learn," Kamiya said.

So he used four days of scheduled meetings at Camp Darby at the start of August to get started, more than seven months before troops will likely deploy.

The goal, he said, was to get ideas on

where there is no extra living facilities and space is questionable. But Kamiya said these aren't the first choices.

"We want to keep the forces of the 173rd and SETAF in a small area," he said.

That leaves open the possibility of an existing Italian facility near Vicenza — Tommaso Dal Molin, for instance. The former Italian air base is being used by civilian interests, but the Italian military still controls sections of it.

Moving into parts of such a place could allow the United States to essentially consolidate its forces in two areas of Vicenza, eliminating about \$2.5 million it pays annually to lease a handful of smaller compounds around the city.

The brigade won't really be building up its forces until it returns from Afghanistan — possibly around the summer of 2006. And it might be several years after that for significant increases, because it would probably take several years to build more facilities, regardless of where they're located.

In the meantime, the brigade has undergone some transformation already. It has more than 100 troops that it did before deploying to Iraq, thanks to the formation of a forward support battalion.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris@all.estrines.com

how to improve, integrate them into existing programs and get everything up and running before the troops leave.

Kamiya said he'd like to get many of the issues resolved quickly, because planning for Afghanistan will take larger chunks of the command's efforts as the months progress.

"In reality, I wish that I could be devoting 100 percent to the warfighting, to Afghanistan," he said. But he admitted he will probably still be focusing on some other issues "when I board that airplane."

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris@all.estrines.com

Prison abuse inquiry raises questions about CIA

By JOHN J. LUMPKIN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The latest U.S. Army investigation into the Abu Ghraib scandal is raising new questions about whether the CIA, operating outside military rules, contributed to the breakdown of military discipline at the prison.

The report cites the presence of unregistered "ghost detainees" who did not fall under the military's usual system of registration, interrogation and medical care.

But the CIA is rejecting much of the criticism. Spokesman Mark Mansfield said recently that the report, released last week, "makes broad allegations about the CIA that are not supported by the text."

The report by senior Army generals describes some of the CIA's

detention procedures, shining a light on those practices. Yet it does little to describe the spy agency's actual interrogation methods at Abu Ghraib, beyond saying they contributed to the discipline problems.

"The CIA's detention and interrogation practices contributed to a loss of accountability and abuse at Abu Ghraib," says the investigation report.

Of 44 incidents of possible abuse cited in the Army's intelligence investigation, the CIA was involved in only one — the only one to involve the death of a detainee. In that case, a newly arrived CIA prisoner did not receive the initial medical screening typical for incoming detainees, and then died. That death remains under investigation.

To date, none of the abuses depicted in the infamous photo-

graphs from Abu Ghraib have been found to involve CIA personnel, Mansfield said.

The specific allegations of abuse at various U.S.-run detention and interrogation centers in

“The CIA’s detention and interrogation practices contributed to a loss of accountability and abuse at Abu Ghraib.”

Prison abuse investigation report

Iraq and Afghanistan are being investigated by the CIA's Inspector General. In several cases, the Justice Department is also investigating whether any CIA officers or contractors committed criminal acts.

The arrangements to hold

"ghost detainees" were made between local CIA officers and military officials at the prison, the investigation found. Army investigators said they located information on eight "ghost detainees" held at Abu Ghraib, but said there may have been more.

In one case, military guards at the prison moved a group of detainees around the prison to hide them from a visiting Red Cross delegation, according to the report of U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, who conducted a separate investigation into the prison's military police unit. He described the actions as "deceptive, contrary to Army Doctrine, and in violation of international law."

A U.S. intelligence official, discussing agency operations on the condition of anonymity, said the CIA would keep detainees hidden

to prevent insurgents both inside and outside the prison from learning of their capture, suggesting the agency believed that Red Cross knowledge of a given prisoner could ultimately reach insurgents.

If the prisoners had been put in the general prison population, they might have been able to confer with associates and plan their responses for an interrogation, the official said. The official said there were only a "handful" of such prisoners.

Mansfield said the CIA does not take issue with the Army report's conclusion that there was confusion in the military regarding the CIA's role and authority at the prison.

Agency officials agree that better coordination and written agreements between the military and CIA would have clarified some matters, particularly for the soldiers, he said.

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Woman gathers toys for Iraqi kids

Schweinfurt project collects teddy bears for children in need

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

SCHWEINFURT, Germany — Sandra Hummel's volunteer mania started last spring with clothes and snacks for wounded soldiers.

On top of the time already spent with Red Cross and Girl Scouts, she started her own organization, Operation in FAITH, to gather donations of goods and funnel them to soldiers who need them. She visits military hospitals in Ramstein and Würzburg regularly.

Her volunteer hours already run as high as 80 each week, Hummel said, but she is driven to do more because, thankfully, fewer injured troops need help. So now her organization is gathering something new: stuffed bears for Iraqi children.

She calls the program Teddies for Toddlers.

"The teddy bear is something that's accepted all over the world as a 'love' item," Hummel said, something she thought might bridge the gap between rifle-toting U.S. troops and Iraqi kids.

About 1,600 plush bears, most the size of Beanie Babies, live in boxes in the basement of her Schweinfurt home.

Most were sent from the United States by Rita Taylor, the mother of a soldier in her husband's unit, the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment. Others came from two women in Florida whose husbands once served with hers.

The bears are awaiting for shipment to soldier contacts Hummel has made at bases in Iraq. Eventually they'll be distributed at hospitals, orphanages and wherever there are kids who need them, she said.

She's collecting more bears through a box at Ledward Barracks' Café Rohr, whose owner also contributed pastries for her visits to hospitalized troops.

Hummel said she already has sent 400 bears to her husband, 1st Sgt. Alan Hummel, at FOB Dan-



Sandra Hummel, right, sits among some of the more than 1,600 stuffed bears she has collected for distribution to Iraqi children in hospitals, orphanages and elsewhere. With Hummel are her two daughters, Venée, 14, left, and Darnelle, 10, who help her with the project.



Shown are a few of the 1,600 stuffed bears in Hummel's basement that will be shipped to bases in Iraq, where troops will distribute them to Iraqi children.

ger in Tikrit. Sometimes he hands them out to kids when he goes on patrols.

Hummel is the daughter of an American soldier and a German mother. She was born in the Würzburg Army Hospital, where she now volunteers, and baptized in the chapel at Ledward Bar-

acks, where she and her two daughters — Venée, 14, and Darnelle, 10 — now go to church.

Since starting up in April, Operation in FAITH has collected and distributed \$16,000 worth of supplies for soldiers, Hummel said. Among the donations: a caseload of board games, a set of 40 coffee-table books, and a box of 200 energy bars sent anonymously and addressed to "An American Hero."

Her mailbox has been so busy, Army postal authorities recently closed it down, accusing her of running an illegal business. She said her supporters, including the 1st ID's rear detachment commander, Lt. Col. Christopher Ko-

landa, intervened and helped her get a box dedicated to Operation in FAITH.

Hummel is eager now to get the teddy bears into the hands of Iraqi toddlers.

"This isn't something you can do for two hours a day," she said. "It's something you really have to do with all your heart."

Those wishing more information about Operation in FAITH may contact Hummel by e-mail at: ShoppingSandra@yahoo.com or by mail at: Operation in FAITH, attn. Sandra Hummel, CMR 464 Box 2417, APO AE 09226.

e-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@male.strips.com

PHOTOS BY KRISTEN CHANDLER TOTH/Special to Stars and Stripes

"The teddy bear is something that's accepted all over the world as a 'love' item."

Sandra Hummel

started Operation in FAITH

Soldier suicide

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — A soldier committed suicide after being arrested on suspicion of arranging a sexual encounter with a 13-year-old girl over the Internet.

Sgt. 1st Class Andre Ventura McDaniel, 40, shot himself in the head with a .380-caliber handgun, officials said. His body was found in a field Sept. 25.

McDaniel, who was based at Fort Carson, was arrested Aug. 20 and charged with sexual assault on a child, enticement of a child and possession of an illegal weapon — a switchblade. The Army was also investigating him on suspicion of stealing cash in Iraq.

Missile passes test

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. — The Army's Patriot interceptor missile system successfully destroyed two targets during a test Thursday at White Sands Missile Range in southern New Mexico.

Officials with the U.S. Army Program Executive Office of Air and Missile Defense in Huntsville, Ala., said the objective was to test the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 — or PAC-3 — with hardware changes designed to reduce missile cost and improve its production.

"The test also demonstrated the system's capability to detect, track, engage and intercept a short-range tactical ballistic missile target and a low-altitude cruise missile target," the office said in a statement.

Soldiers from the Air Defense Artillery at Fort Bliss, Texas, helped with the test.

The PAC-3 system successfully completed operation testing in 2002. It was first used in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

The PAC-3 has kinetic energy, rather than an explosive warhead, to destroy targets. It was developed to provide increased defense against advanced tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and other air-burn threats.

Dispute over depot

ROMULUS, N.Y. — Want to take possession of 1 million square feet of warehouse space at the old Seneca Army Depot in central New York? No, sir. Or at least not yet, the local municipality is telling the U.S. Army.

Seneca County's industrial development agency voted 6-0 Thursday night against accepting the title to dozens of warehouse buildings on the 10,600-acre depot at the end of September. The reason? They have not been properly maintained, county officials say.

Before accepting ownership, the county wants the Army to carry out extensive repairs to make the buildings safe and the roof in one warehouse recently collapsed without warning on a sunny day.

County officials said they're now awaiting a response from the Army.

Tucked in rolling farmland between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, the depot evoked pride and fury in the 1980s when defense analysts revealed it was home to the nation's largest Army stockpile of nuclear missiles. After 30 years, post-Cold War budget cuts shut it down in July 2000.

From The Associated Press

Retired GI may face charges from Vietnam

The Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio — A military attorney has recommended charging a retired soldier in a 1967 rampage of alleged atrocities committed by U.S. troops against hundreds of civilians in Vietnam, a newspaper reported.

The Blade, which won a Pulitzer Prize for its reporting on the Vietnam War, said in its Tuesday edition that the recommendation involved retired Maj. James Hawkins, 63, a former unit commander who now lives near Orlando, Fla.

Hawkins declined to comment on the military attorney's recommendation, the newspaper said.

Army Reserve lawyer Michael Walther reviewed the original case and The Blade's se-

ries and concluded that the evidence was strong enough to return Hawkins to duty for an Article 32 hearing, the equivalent of a military grand jury, the newspaper said.

The Army has not decided whether to prosecute Hawkins, according to the newspaper, which said questions remain whether Army lawyers have the legal power to charge him.

Hawkins was among 18 former Tiger Force soldiers accused by Army investigators of crimes ranging from murder and assault to dereliction of duty during an investigation in 1971-75. The case was dropped by the Pentagon and concealed from the public until revealed by The Blade.

The most serious allegation faced by Hawkins in 1975 was the fatal shooting of an elderly

carpenter in the Song Ve Valley in July 1967. Army investigators recommended in 1975 that he be charged with murder.

In an interview with The Blade in 2003, he admitted killing the elderly man because "he was making too much noise" and might disclose the location of U.S. troops to the enemy.

Although Hawkins has long been out of the Army, his military pension qualifies him to be recalled to duty, under a rarely used but widely accepted military law.

Army spokesman Dov Schwartz said the case remained open.

Hawkins could not be reached for comment. The only phone listing under his name in Orlando has been disconnected or is no longer in service, according to a phone company recording.



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Founder
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LEAGUE: An association of persons or groups united by and for a common purpose, interest or goal.

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GENTLEMEN: Men whose conduct conforms to a high standard of propriety or corrected behavior.

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Real Men I want you to understand that God has placed you in a league where all things are possible to you if you know and believe in Him! God has given you the ability to turn an ordinary marriage into an extraordinary marriage, an ordinary job into an extraordinary job, a problem into an extraordinary promise and an ordinary way of thinking into an extraordinary way of thinking. God wants to show you the EXTRA power, EXTRA wisdom, EXTRA knowledge, EXTRA ability, EXTRA love, EXTRA faith and life that is in you or can be in you.

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me, no way things will change for me, it's to late, I'm to afraid now, I'm so weak or I'm afraid it want work for me). That is the way ordinary men without God think, talk, act and feel. But if Jesus Christ is your Lord, God The Father has recreated you and put you into a special "LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN".

The disciples heard and saw Jesus speak to a storm saying, "peace be still" and it obeyed him. The disciples heard and saw Jesus speak to a tree, and it withered away. The disciples heard and saw Jesus speak to a man that had been dead for four days, and he came back to life again. The disciples heard and saw Jesus take two fishes and five loaves of bread, and multiplied it until it fed 5000 men. He was in another league and He was not an ordinary man.

In the book of Matthew, the disciples asked between themselves a very important question. The men marveled saying, "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" Matthew 8:27. I will tell you what kind of man He is. He is the head, He is the first, He is the leader of "THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN" and every man can become His offspring (His Seed).

1st John 4:17 says, "As He (Jesus) is, so are WE (Real Men) in this world."

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RUTH KENNEDY/Courtesy to Stars and Stripes

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Heath Snow keeps a tight grip atop a bull at the Ventura Rodeo in California in May. The Seabee, currently deployed to southern Spain, works as a professional bull rider in his spare time.

Holding tight to a dream Seabee keeps adrenaline flowing at rodeos

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain—Petty Officer 3rd Class Heath Snow likes to live on the edge.

When he isn't deployed or taking care of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR's armory, you'll likely find the Seabee at a rodeo moonlighting as a professional bull rider. The Texan competes in about 20 rodeos a year as a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, the nation's premier rodeo circuit.

"You get addicted to it," Snow said. "It's one of those things you do it once and you're either going to love it or you're going to be scared of it. A lot of people, it scares the hell out of them the first time."

Snow, 28, of Abilene, Texas, rode his first bull when he was 16 years old. He has been riding ever since.

Although both his father and grandfather rode bulls, his mother didn't approve of him doing it. He had to sneak out with his friend to a ranch where he could satisfy his admitted addiction.

He didn't do well in his first small rodeo, but got better with practice. "It takes a lot of skill," he said. "It's not something you learn the first time you get down there. It's not like riding a horse or anything else because you're constantly moving in different directions and you really don't know what they're going to do."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Maurice Johnson, 35, said Snow, his good friend, is one of those people who seem deceptively quiet and soft-spoken at first impression. "They may seem like they're quiet but they do some real crazy stuff," he said.

To prepare for a rodeo, Snow pumps iron, runs and works with "practice bulls" that are tamer than those in competition.

A good bull rider must be in top physical condition, but a



member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.
Job: Works in the armory for Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR, which is currently deployed to Naval Station Rota, Spain.

Age: 28
Family: Divorced, two children
Hometown: Abilene, Texas

Stars and Stripes

2,000-pound bull can still punish the best athlete with one buck.

"It's like being tied to the back of a truck going about 60 mph from zero, jerking you along," he said. "They jerk so hard they create G-force. They have an unbelievable amount of power. You have to respect that. You have to get out of their way when you get down."

There have been some scary moments. Last May, the chute opened before Snow was ready. The bull spun Snow around several times before trampling him. If not for the intervention of a rodeo clown, Snow believes he could have been crushed by the animal and possibly killed.

He walked away with a separated ankle, a sprained wrist and the tendons separated from his knee. His fiancée, Ruth Kennedy, was there taking photos and saw the whole thing.

"I had so much adrenaline

going through me I didn't realize I was hurt at the time," Snow said.

But that didn't stop him from getting back on another bull. Just weeks later, he participated in another rodeo.

Getting injured is like a rite of passage for bull riders. Although bull riders today wear Keplar vests to prevent their torso from getting punctured, most do not wear helmets. Concussions and twisted joints are common.

"It's all part of the game," Snow said.

Snow, a former Army Ranger who served eight years in the Army, is no stranger to rough sports. He used to play on a Navy rugby team and has a broken nose to prove it.

Competing in any rodeos the next six months will be impossible because his battalion is deployed to southern Spain. As a gunner's mate for the battalion, he takes care of all of the weapons and trains other Seabees on how to use them.

But when he gets out of the Navy in February, he plans to work as a blacksmith and do the bull riding full time.

If he does well, he figures he can earn a good living.

Professional bull riders can make between \$500 a ride to more than \$20,000 for the larger ones. The top echelon of bull riders makes more than \$100,000 annually, according to the PRCA.

Snow, who is divorced, is looking forward to returning to Texas so he can be closer to his two sons, who are 3 and 5. But he isn't sure how long he'll be able to ride bulls. Maybe five years. It all depends on how his body holds up.

"Between the military, rugby and everything else, it's taken quite a beating," he said.

He approaches the life much like he does a bucking bull. Just hold on and ride it for as long as you can.

"You can't force things," he said.

E-mail: Scott.Schonaue@starsandstripes.osd.mil

Cheerleaders take their skills to K-Town



The Universal Cheerleaders Association sponsored a three-day camp over the weekend in Kaiserslautern, Germany. The camp, which ended Sunday, drew 196 participants from grades nine through 12. They learned cheers, sideline chants, dances, stunts and safety techniques from UCA coaches.

Based in the United States, UCA conducts camps at more than 450 sites in the States and Europe.

Top: Cheerleaders from Department of Defense Dependents Schools throughout Europe practice a dance routine.

Right: UCA instructor Peter Michel demonstrates a position to Lakenheath's Olivia Sather.

Far right: Cheerleaders from Hanau High School in Germany practice a cradle, catching Nikki McGuire after a stunt.

PHOTOS BY RAYMOND T. CONWAY
Stars and Stripes



10 detainees to be held

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A U.S. military review panel has ruled that 10 prisoners accused of links to Afghanistan's Taliban regime or the al-Qaida network were properly classified as "enemy combatants" and should not be freed, an official said Saturday.

The panels have decided 29 of the 53 cases reviewed so far should continue to be held, said Navy Cmdr. Beci Brenton, a Pentagon spokeswoman. There are about 585 men who are under review at the U.S. outpost.

The military has declined to provide details on the 29 cases. Brenton said the government is waiting for permission from the men's embassies.

None of the men who have gone before the review tribunals have been charged.

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IN THE WORLD

Russians begin burials of school siege victims



In St. Petersburg, Russia, a woman cries while placing flowers at a wall covered with photos of the Beslan hostage crisis Sunday. Walls of mourning echoed in Russia on Sunday in the wake of the school siege that left at least 340 people, nearly half of them children, dead.

BY BURT HERMAN
The Associated Press

BESLAN, Russia — Funeral processions snaked through this grief-stricken town as relatives buried the first victims of the school siege in southern Russia on Sunday, while frantic parents still searched for missing children two days after the crisis erupted into violence that left more than 350 people dead.

Walls of mourning women echoed from courtyards where families made ritual meals and from a football-field sized plot of land next to the cemetery in this small city in the North Ossetia region, where men dug graves as surveyors across the road marked out new plots with wooden stakes and string.

"When a person goes to the cemetery for a burial, it's sad, but nothing like this — when you dig graves for your children," said Anzor Kudziyev, 25, a volunteer gravedigger who helped prepare the field for the burials.



Source: ESRI

The paroxysm of violence left few families untouched in this tight-knit mostly industrial town, whose population of 30,000 belies a village atmosphere in which many leave their doors unlocked. Most people in Beslan had a rela-

tive, friend or neighbor killed or wounded.

There were conflicting official reports of the death toll, apparently confused in part because of the large number of body fragments collected at the school.

North Ossetia's health minister Alexander Soplevnikov said at least 340 people were dead, while his deputy Taimuraz Revkov said 324 were confirmed dead. Interfax quoted regional government spokesman Lev Dzugayev as saying the toll stood at 338, but he later said in televised comments that the number was 335.

The regional health ministry said 180 people were missing after the three-day hostage crisis, which began when armed attackers raided School No. 1 on the first day of classes, seizing students, teachers and parents who brought their children to opening-day ceremonies.

Russian media speculated that some of the missing could be among the wounded who were brought to various hospitals in North Ossetia, unconscious or in too deep a state of shock — or just too young — to identify themselves.

Also, many of the dead still have not been identified — a process that could take a long time. The health ministry said 207 of the dead had been identified.

More than 700 people needed medical help after the crisis, and officials said 386 remained hospitalized Sunday in North Ossetia, including 184 children, the Interfax news agency reported. Several badly wounded victims have been taken to Moscow hospitals.

As some residents buried their dead, others were still searching for relatives. Many expressed doubt over the government accounts of the tragedy's magnitude, a skepticism stoked by severe initial understatements by officials of the number of hostages, which exceeded 1,100.

Questions also remained about the identity of the hostage-takers — Russian officials said several of them were from Arab countries, but little information substantiating that has been released — and about the events leading up to the chaotic climax of the crisis.

North Ossetia's Emergency Situations Minister Boris Dzugoyev said Saturday that 35 attackers were killed. However, Russian Deputy Prosecutor General Sergei Fridinsky said Sunday that according to the latest information, 32 terrorists had been involved and the bodies of 30 of them had been found, Interfax reported.

Three suspects were detained in Beslan on Saturday, Interfax reported, citing unnamed law enforcement sources.

Russian officials said the blood-bath began when explosions were apparently set off by the militants — possibly by accident — as emergency workers entered the courtyard to collect the bodies of dead hostages.

They said the militants opened fire on hostages who started to flee in the confusion, prompting security forces and armed locals to return fire and commandos to move in.

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Pope beatifies 3 more Catholics

BY VICTOR L. SIMPSON
The Associated Press

LORETO, Italy — A frail Pope John Paul II put three more Roman Catholics on the road to sainthood during a visit to a hill-top shrine Sunday, struggling at times but cheered on by 200,000 pilgrims.

He seemed drained, seated in a wheeled throne in glittering green vestments, at the end of the three-hour ceremony in 86-degree heat. The large crowd broke into applause when he told them: "The pope greets you, supports you and blesses you from the heart."

The 84-year-old pontiff, who has Parkinson's disease and crippling knee and hip ailments, read his homily with difficulty. He left one portion to be read by an aide. But he seemed stronger than during his trip to Lourdes, France, three weeks ago.

John Paul did not speak of the Russian school tragedy. But a young man read a prayer — "for the dead, for the children and for all the innocent victims."

Hundreds of people were killed

in violence at a hostage standoff at the school in southern Russia.

Organizers and police said at least 200,000 pilgrims showed up at Italy's leading Marian shrine, which overlooks the Adriatic Sea south of Ancona.

Security was tight, with police closing down roads into Loreto hours before the pope's arrival by Italian military helicopter from his summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

The trip was arranged around the beatification of three members — a Spaniard and two Italians — of the Christian organization Catholic Action.

He has already visited Switzerland and France this year, and although he has been invited to Istanbul, Turkey, by an Orthodox leader, the Vatican has given no confirmation that the visit will take place. It was the fifth trip to Loreto, Italy's leading Marian shrine, of his nearly 26-year papacy.

Beatification is the last formal step before possible sainthood.

Sunday's ceremony raises to 1,333 the number of Catholics John Paul has beatified, more



Pope John Paul II kisses the relics of Alberto Marvelli and Pina Suriano, two lay Italians, and Pedro Tarres y Claret, a Spanish priest-physician, beatified during a solemn Mass, near the shrine of Loreto, Italy.

than done by all his predecessors combined over the past 50 years.

The pope has sought to give Catholics role models, and he said Sunday that "there is no greater freedom than that of love" for Christ, "no greater brotherhood

than that born from Christ's cross."

Those beatified Sunday lived in the 20th century: a Spanish priest-physician, Pedro Tarres y Claret, and two lay Italians, Alberto Marvelli and Pina Suriano.

Mass marks anniversary of Calcutta nun's death

The Associated Press

CALCUTTA, India — Nearly 100 people gathered for a special Sunday Mass to pay tribute to Mother Teresa on the seventh anniversary of her death.

Nuns in indigo-trimmed white saris and volunteers decorated Mother Teresa's marble tomb with garlands and red roses, lit candles and incense sticks and chanted hymns.

Traditionally, the Roman Catholic Church doesn't permit Mass commemorating a person on Sundays. But the Vatican made an exception for Mother Teresa, who was beatified in October.

Born Agnes Gonxhe Bojaxhiu in what is now Skopje, Macedonia, Mother Teresa died at age 87 on Sept. 5, 1997, in Calcutta, the capital of India's West Bengal state, where she spent most of her life.

The Missionaries of Charity, the order Mother Teresa founded, runs centers for impoverished people worldwide. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

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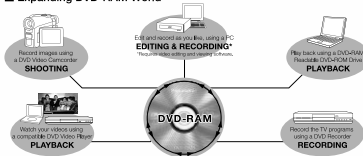
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IN THE STATES

Frances smothers Fla. with wind, heavy rain

BY TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

STUART, Fla. — Hurricane Frances weakened but still pounded Florida with high wind and heavy rain Sunday after smashing across the state's east coast, knocking out power to 4 million people, shredding roofs and uprooting trees.

Some evacuees fled a second time when a school's roof was partially blown off. Some 86,000 people remained in shelters as Gov. Jeb Bush warned them against venturing out to see the damage until officials say it's OK.

"I didn't think it would get this bad," Caroline Cadet said as she ventured through her West Palm Beach neighborhood in rain gear. "The shutters were flapping in the wind so hard all night. It was crazy loud."

Specifics on damage and injuries will be impossible to gather until after the storm passes, said Craig Fugate, the state's director of emergency management.

The storm made landfall with top sustained wind of 105 mph, but by early afternoon it was just 1 mph above minimum hurricane strength at 75 mph. Forecasters warned that its path would take the center over the warm water of the northeastern Gulf of Mexico north of Tampa by early Monday. They said it was possible Frances would regain intensity by Monday night and hit the central Panhandle near Apalachicola.

"This is affecting the entire peninsula today, either tropical storm-force or hurricane force. And then tomorrow it will be up in the panhandle, and then moving up into Georgia and Alabama," National Hurricane Center director Max Mayfield said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation."



PALM BEACH (FLA) POST/AP

A vehicle on northbound Interstate 95 in West Palm Beach, Fla., cruises past a sinkhole that developed following heavy rains Saturday night from Hurricane Frances.

The eye of the storm blew ashore at Seawall's Point, just east of Stuart, around 1 a.m., and by 2 p.m. it was centered about 55 miles east of Tampa, near Lake Wales in the middle of the Florida Peninsula. Frances was moving toward the west-northwest at about 9 mph, and expected to remain over the state for most of the day, dumping 8 to 12 inches of rain, with up to 20 inches in some areas.

"I wish somebody'd get out there and push it — get it over with," said 72-year-old Nedra Smith, who waited out the storm in the lobby of a Palm Bay hotel.

Frances was so big that virtually the entire state feared damage just weeks after

Hurricane Charley tore through, killing 27 people and causing billions of dollars in damage. About 230 miles of coastline — from the Deerfield Beach area northward to Flagler Beach — remained under a hurricane warning Sunday morning. A similar-sized part of the Panhandle from the mouth of the Suwannee River to Destin on the Gulf of Mexico were also under a warning.

The storm forced the largest evacuation in state history, with 2.8 million residents ordered inland and 86,000 of them in shelters. Miami-Dade County told about 320,000 people they could return home Sunday, but the storm had shut down

much of Florida, including airports and amusement parks, during the usually busy Labor Day weekend. Airports in Miami and Fort Lauderdale reopened Sunday, but Orlando remained closed.

President Bush declared a major disaster in the counties affected by Frances, meaning residents may get federal aid.

Four people were hospitalized in Boynton Beach after breathing carbon monoxide from a generator that was running in a house. There were reports of injuries in St. Lucie County, but sheriff's spokesman Mark Weinberg said he had no details.

At least two deaths were blamed on the storm in the Bahamas, where thousands were forced from their homes.

In Jensen Beach, sections of Indian River Drive washed into the river, leaving holes about 8 feet deep. Roads, streets and beaches elsewhere in the state were littered with debris. Businesses were shuttered, trees were bent and light posts wobbled in the howling gusts.

Looting had become a problem. Police in the Orlando area said 10 thieves used a stolen car to smash into a store and steal about \$10,000 worth of clothing, and two men were arrested as they tried to steal an ATM machine with a chain saw. At least 10 other people were arrested for looting in Indian River County, Palm Beach County and Brevard County.

Florida Power & Light pulled crews off the streets to deal with the loss of 4 million customers without power, spokesman Bill Swank said. Nearly all of Vero Beach, 30 miles north of Stuart, was blacked out, the city's utility said.

In Martin County, where Stuart is located, 630 people sought shelter at a school had to move to another shelter when part of the roof blew off, flooding 16 rooms. More than 300 people were able to remain in the school.

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\$40 off the purchase of a year supply of Acuvue Disposable Contact Lenses and eye exam.

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DSN: 382-4769
Vogelweh Optical Shop 06311-442724
DSN: 488-6563

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Two men shot dead

RALEIGH, N.C. — Two brothers were arrested in the shooting deaths of two young men at a tailgate party before a college football game, authorities said.

Witnesses said a fistfight preceded the shootings Saturday evening.

The victims, identified as Kevin M. McCann, 23, of Chicago, and Marine 2nd Lt. Brett Johnson Harman, 23, of Park Ridge, Ill., were tailgating before North Carolina State University's season-opening football game against Richmond.

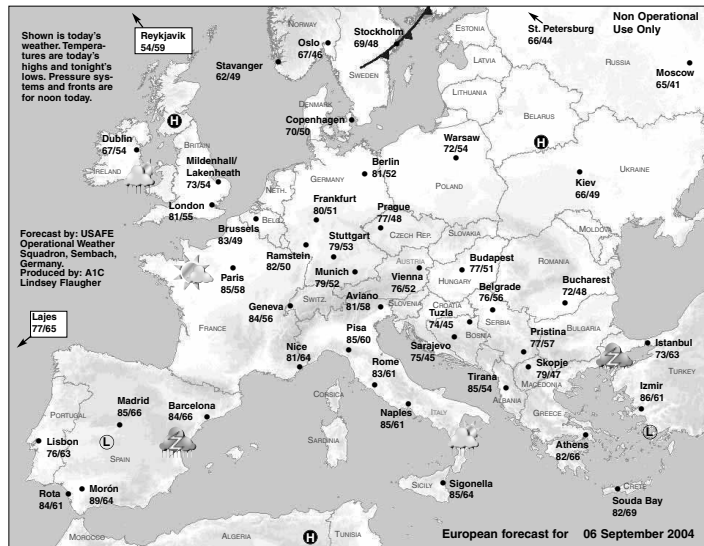
Tony H. Johnson, 20, of Raleigh, and his brother, Timothy W. Johnson, 22, an NCSU student, were arrested a short time later and charged with two counts of first-degree murder, said sheriff's department spokeswoman Phyllis Stephens.

A witness, Brian Smith, 31, said the victims had been tossing a football when a car drove recklessly in a parking lot packed with football fans. He said the men pulled the blond-haired driver from his car and beat him, pushing his head into the dirt.

The witness, man left in his car, shouting curses and threatening revenge, Smith said. He returned later and asked Smith where to find the men who had beaten him, saying he had a "38 Smith & Wesson for them."

Smith, who said the man appeared intoxicated, pointed in the direction of the victims and heard gunshots a short time later.

From The Associated Press



KEY: Sunny Partly cloudy Mostly cloudy Cloudy Shower Tornado Rain Rainbow Snow Cold front Warm front Trough Occluded front Stationary front Low High

AFRICA

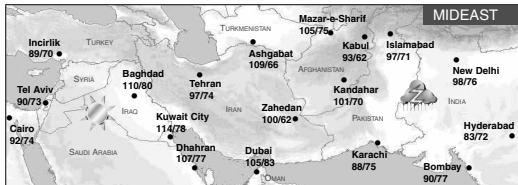
	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	83	46	Mogadishu	89	74
Johannesburg	88	68	Nairobi	81	52
Freeport	83	73	Rabat	81	62
Windhoek	86	68	Tripoli	96	68

THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	78	54	Manila	90	76
Bahran	103	79	Mexico City	71	55
Beijing	81	57	Montreal	74	60
Berlin	86	77	Niagara	109	79
Bermuda	85	76	Rio de Jan	78	65
Calcutta	94	78	Sao Paulo	89	66
Helsinki	66	43	Sofia	70	42
Hong Kong	82	60	Sydney	67	51
Tokyo	76	61	Tokyo	85	77

TODAY'S STATEIDE OUTLOOK

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Alabama	88	63	Colorado Springs	75	47
Alaska	82	64	Columbia, S.C.	83	73
Arizona	83	64	Columbia, Mo.	87	66
Arkansas	86	77	Concord, N.H.	60	52
California	78	61	Corpus Christi	76	50
Connecticut	81	55	Dallas-Ft. Worth	88	64
Delaware	85	65	Dayton	88	66
District of Columbia	83	71	Denver	76	51
Florida	83	71	Des Moines	81	61
Georgia	76	54	Detroit	88	71
Hawaii	83	74	El Paso	87	62
Idaho	72	47	Fort Worth	88	71
Illinois	72	47	El Paso	87	62
Indiana	88	71	El Paso	87	62
Iowa	72	47	El Paso	87	62
Kansas	88	71	El Paso	87	62
Kentucky	72	47	El Paso	87	62
Louisiana	88	71	El Paso	87	62
Maine	72	47	El Paso	87	62
Maryland	88	71	El Paso	87	62
Massachusetts	72	47	El Paso	87	62
Michigan	88	71	El Paso	87	62
Minnesota	72	47	El Paso	87	62
Mississippi	88	71	El Paso	87	62
Missouri	72	47	El Paso	87	62
Montana	88	71	El Paso	87	62
Nebraska	72	47	El Paso	87	62
Nevada	88	71	El Paso	87	62
New Hampshire	72	47	El Paso	87	62
New Jersey	88	71	El Paso	87	62
New Mexico	72	47	El Paso	87	62
New York	88	71	El Paso	87	62
North Carolina	72	47	El Paso	87	62
North Dakota	88	71	El Paso	87	62
Ohio	72	47	El Paso	87	62
Oklahoma	88	71	El Paso	87	62
Oregon	72	47	El Paso	87	62
Pennsylvania	88	71	El Paso	87	62
Rhode Island	72	47	El Paso	87	62
South Carolina	88	71	El Paso	87	62
South Dakota	72	47	El Paso	87	62
Tennessee	88	71	El Paso	87	62
Texas	72	47	El Paso	87	62
Vermont	88	71	El Paso	87	62
Virginia	72	47	El Paso	87	62
Washington	88	71	El Paso	87	62
West Virginia	72	47	El Paso	87	62
Wisconsin	88	71	El Paso	87	62
Wyoming	72	47	El Paso	87	62



MIDEAST

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Sunny. Highs in the lower to mid 80s, Tuesday lows in the upper 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Partly cloudy with isolated morning rain showers. Highs in the upper 60s to lower 80s, Tuesday lows in the mid 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Sunny. Highs in the mid to upper 70s, Tuesday lows in the mid 40s.

France: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower to mid 80s, Tuesday lows in the upper 50s to mid 60s.

Northern Germany: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s, Tuesday lows in the lower 50s.

Southern Germany: Sunny. Highs in the upper 70s, Tuesday lows in the lower to mid 50s.

Hungary: Sunny. Highs in the upper 70s, Tuesday lows in the lower to mid 50s.

Northern Italy: Sunny. Highs in the low to mid 80s, Tuesday lows in the lower 60s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy with morning showers. Highs in the mid 80s, Tuesday lows in the lower to mid 60s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s to lower 80s, Tuesday lows in the mid to mid 50s.

Norway: Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the lower 70s, Tuesday lows in the mid to upper 40s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy with afternoon thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s to upper 80s, Tuesday lows in the lower to mid 50s.

Turkey: Sunny. Highs in the lower 70s to mid 80s, Tuesday lows in the lower to mid 50s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at <https://www.sembach.af.mil> or <https://www.public.sembach.af.mil>

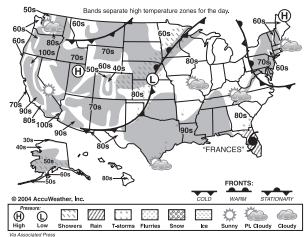
SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:41AM	6:41AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	6:49AM	6:50AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	7:21PM	7:20PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	7:59PM	7:56PM

Last of Sept 14 New moon Sept 21 Last of Sept 28 Full moon Oct 6

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

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STARS AND STRIPES Your HomeTown Newspaper



Muslim women walk past a booth set up at the 41st annual Islamic Society of North America convention Friday in Rosemont, Ill.

'Muslims for Bush' lobby fuels debate

Many followers feel the president's war on terror has created a bad name for religion

BY RACHEL ZOLL
The Associated Press

ROSEMONT, Ill. — They stop abruptly when they see the 5-foot-tall photo of President Bush, with "muslimsforbush.com" above his head.

"Disgusting," said one onlooker. "Take that down," said another.

At the largest annual convention of American Muslims, a pro-Bush booth has stirred anger among attendees who believe the president's actions since Sept. 11, 2001, have hurt more innocent Muslims than terrorists.

"I think President Bush has misled not only the United States, but the world," said Noor Macia, an educator who called the booth "disgusting" and planned to vote for Democrat John Kerry. "He has put us in a situation where the whole world is hating this country."

The display was funded by Muhammad Ali Hasan and his mother, Seema, who recently created the group "Muslims for Bush." Seema Hasan said in a phone interview that she and her husband Malik, a Colorado physician who earned his wealth in the health care industry, have donated more than \$1 million to Bush and Republican causes since the 2000 campaign.

"The reason we are doing this is that Muslims don't have a lobby-yist," Seema Hasan said. "We want to be there. We are going to give contributions at the highest level."

Bush has other supporters in the Muslim community. Some are Iraq-Americans overjoyed that Saddam Hussein has been ousted.

Others are entrepreneurs who view the GOP as more friendly to business interests. And many devout Muslims prefer the Republicans' conservative stand on social issues such as gay marriage.

But many Muslims at the non-partisan Islamic Society of North

America convention were not grateful for the Hasans' activism.

An older man gawked at the photo of the president with his arms wrapped around Muhammad and Seema Hasan, and said, "I'm numb. I'm speechless." He then joined a group that had come to a conference official, demanding that the display be taken down. A volunteer staffing the booth said some people were taking campaign material and throwing it out.

Asma Gull Hasan, the elder Hasan's daughter, who was also at the booth, said she had expected negative remarks. However, she said she was encouraged that some passers-by had quietly told her they would vote for the president.

Bush has a complex relationship with American Muslims.

He declared Islam a peaceful religion when some other U.S. leaders were condemning the faith, and honored Muslim holidays in the White House. After Sept. 11, the president made a gesture of enormous significance for the community when he visited a Washington-area mosque and warned the public that anger over the suicide hijackings should not be directed toward U.S. Muslims.

However, his subsequent policies have caused deep resentment.

Muslim leaders say the domestic war on terror and the USA Patriot Act, which extended controversial law enforcement powers, have cast so wide a net that all Muslims and their institutions have become suspect.

Leading American Muslim organizations endorsed Bush in 2000 over Democrat Al Gore, expecting the Texas governor would be more sympathetic to their concerns. But Muslims have said since that they regretted their decision.

Surveys of U.S. Muslims indicate a majority will vote for Kerry, even though they fear he will not go far enough in repealing parts of the Patriot Act.

McCain plays peace-maker

Senator said both sides unfair in their campaign attacks

BY LIZ SIDOTI
The Associated Press

ROSWELL, N.M. — John McCain tried Saturday to play peacemaker again.

The Republican said Democrat John Kerry was "unfair" when he criticized the GOP ticket as "unfit to lead the nation" and when he suggested that President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney avoided serving in Vietnam.

"John Kerry's characterization that the president is unfit for duty in Vietnam," said McCain, a Republican senator from Arizona.

"I categorically reject that just as I categorically reject allegations that Senator Kerry didn't serve honorably."

Kerry had lashed out at Bush after the GOP convention, where speakers criticized his Senate voting record on national security issues and argued that the Democrat was unfit to be commander in chief.

McCain, a prisoner of war for more than five years while serving in Vietnam, came to Kerry's defense last month, calling on Bush to condemn ads by the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth that questioned Kerry's Vietnam service.

"The Vietnam War was over 30 years ago. We have a war in Iraq to fight," McCain said. "President Bush served honorably. John Kerry served honorably. End of story."

On Thursday night, Kerry hit back shortly after Bush finished his convention speech, saying: "I will not have my commitment to defend this country questioned by those who refused to serve when they could have and who misled America into Iraq."

Cheney calls Clinton

COLUMBUS, Ga. — Vice President Dick Cheney, who has had four heart attacks, called former President Clinton on Saturday to wish him well with his upcoming heart bypass surgery.

"I just called to let him know we were thinking about him," Cheney told reporters. "I want Air Force Two. 'I've been through a similar experience before. The key was to have the good sense to go get checked if you thought you had a problem, which he obviously did.'"

Cheney, 63, said he told Clinton about having undergone a quadruple bypass 16 years ago.

Bush served stateside in the Texas Air National Guard. Cheney received five deferments and never served in the military.

McCain, a Kerry friend but a Bush supporter, spoke with reporters while campaigning with Cheney.

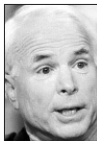
Asked if Republicans have mischaracterized Kerry's positions on the military and Iraq, McCain said: "Everybody's misrepresenting each other's position. Yes, they have mischaracterized. But, yes, the Democrats have mischaracterized the Republicans as well."

McCain said while he believes that Kerry would be "a good president in every way," he believes that Bush would be "a much better president because he's proven his strength and clarity and leadership of this nation in time of crisis."

He also called the debate over Vietnam service "a distraction" that's taking away from pressing issues like the war on terror.

Stephanie Cutter, a Kerry spokeswoman, stuck by Kerry's comments.

"We agree with Senator McCain that the debate should not be about what happened 35 years ago. It should be about the state of the country today," she said. "Because of the way George Bush and Dick Cheney misled this nation into war, they are unfit to lead the country for another four years."



McCain

"I was living proof of the wonders of modern medicine," Cheney said.

Clinton, 58, was expected to undergo heart bypass surgery as early as Monday.

Heinz Kerry hospitalized

MASON CITY, Iowa — Teresa Heinz Kerry, the wife of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, was taken to a hospital here late Saturday after complaining of an upset stomach, a spokeswoman said.

She was taken to Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa.

"As a precaution, Mrs. Heinz

Kerry had a series of routine tests performed and was released," said Sarah Gegenheimer, a spokeswoman for Heinz Kerry. "She is feeling better and is traveling to her home in Pittsburgh tonight as planned."

From The Associated Press

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
British pound	\$1.249
Japanese yen (Sept. 7)	\$1.00
South Korean won (Sept. 4)	\$1.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1.759
Canada (Dollar)	0.589
Denmark (Krone)	6.107
Egypt (Pound)	1.000
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.201
Indonesia (Rupiah)	1,265
Israel (Shekel)	4.510
Japan (Yen)	110.59
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Malaysia (Ringgit)	1.000
Philippines (Peso)	56.86
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.750
Singapore (Dollar)	1.363
South Korea (Won)	1,148.10
Switzerland (Franc)	1.000
Thailand (Baht)	41.43
Turkey (Lira)	1,515.125
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance of the currency. South Korea, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are not included in this table. Rates are, purchasing British pounds in Germany, based on your local bank's exchange facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates for reference only. Not for buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies in U.S. dollars, except the British pound, which is represented in dollars to euro, and the euro, which is dollars to euro.)	

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INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	
Discount rate	2.50
3-month bill	1.64
6-month bill	1.64
1-year bill	1.64
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com	

cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

IBM recalls adapters

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — IBM Corp. is recalling some 553,000 notebook computer adapters sold worldwide because they can overheat and pose fire and shock hazards, the company and the government said last week.

IBM is not aware of any injuries caused by the 56-watt A-power adapters but has received at least six reports of overheating, which can damage the circuit board, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said.

Most of the adapters accompanied IBM ThinkPad i Series, 390 and 240 Series and S Series notebooks. The rectangular product has three hollow pins on one end

that connect to a cord, and the IBM logo and the number 02K554 appear on the label.

The recall includes about 225,000 adapters sold across the United States with ThinkPad computers by electronics and computer stores, IBM's Web site, mail-order catalogues, phone orders and resellers from January 1999 to August 2000. The product was also sold separately for about \$55. IBM said other adapters were shipped in the same months to Asian Pacific countries, excluding Japan.

Consumers are advised to unplug the adapters and visit www.AdapterProgram.com for information on free replacements.

OPINION

On Labor Day, workers only earn a day off

BY MARK WEISBROT

LABOR DAY 2004 is anything but a picnic for the vast majority of America's 147-million-member labor force. No matter how you slice it, most U.S. workers are worse off than they were at this time last year.

The average real wage—that is, adjusted for inflation—has actually fallen over the past year. This is in spite of the fact that the economy has grown by 4.7 percent. In other words, even when the economy is growing, most of the people who make it grow aren't getting anything out of it.

This continues a long-term trend—briefly interrupted in the late 1990s—that has dominated the past 30 years. Over the past three decades the median real wage has grown by only about 8 percent. In other words, the majority of the American labor force has failed to share in the gains from economic growth.

This by itself is an outrage and ought to be a major political issue in an election year. Prior to the "Age of Greed" it was normal for the wages of most workers to grow with productivity. If that had happened over the past three decades, the typical (median) family income would be more than \$60,000, instead of the \$43,300 that it is today.

This is not a utopian "what if" scenario but rather what would have actually occurred if most American workers had not lost so much bargaining power.

Most of this loss stems from policy change-

es rather than just "market forces." For example, the decline in union membership and strength results from legal and institutional changes that have made it extremely difficult for workers to organize unions and bargain collectively.

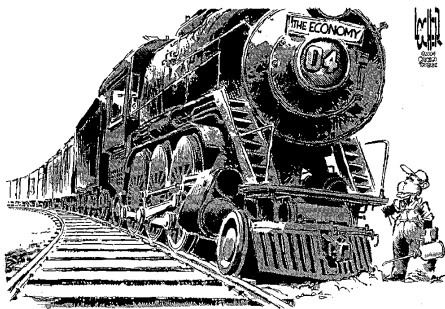
Tens of thousands of workers are illegally fired each year for organizing or attempting to join a union, and companies can refuse to bargain with unions for years even when they are legally obligated to do so. Human Rights Watch found that the United States had a "culture of near impunity" for employers who violate basic labor rights.

Our trade and commercial agreements with other countries have also been deliberately designed to drive down the wages of most workers, while protectionism for professionals—doctors and lawyers, for example—remains intact. It is no wonder that most of the massive redistribution of income of recent decades has gone from the bottom half of the labor force to professional and other highly paid employees.

To reverse these trends, we will need real labor law reform that restores collective bargaining rights for American labor. But it will still be difficult to make up for 30 years of losses.

So labor's best hope for the foreseeable future is probably going to be found in universal programs, such as health care, where workers are currently losing ground as employers cut back on benefits and increase employee co-payments.

Most European workers not only have universal health insurance, but four or five



weeks of vacation a year, paid family leave and often subsidized child care as well. Their societies are no richer than ours, they just have different priorities.

In the case of health care, our costs are so out of control—we spend nearly twice as much per person as other developed countries and still leave a sixth of our population uninsured—that reform will be increasingly difficult to avoid.

But universal reforms that allow workers

to share in the prosperity that their labor creates also have the advantage—like Social Security and Medicare—of a broad political appeal that makes them easier to win and preserve.

If we can make some progress in these areas by next year's Labor Day, then maybe American labor will have something to celebrate.

Mark Weisbrot is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, a nonpartisan Washington-based think tank.

Real wages have improved with nation's economy

BY MARK J. PERRY

AS WE celebrate the economic achievements on Labor Day, American workers can be proud that they are the most productive in the world. Workers can also be thankful that there is overwhelming evidence that the labor market has improved significantly since last Labor Day, and likely will continue to improve.

Measured by output per person, no country in the world even comes close to matching the productivity of American workers—they will produce 30 percent of global output this year with only 5 percent of the world's labor force.

Japanese workers are only 74 percent as productive as American workers, and European workers are only 84 percent as productive.

The world-class productivity of American workers also means they have the highest wages, the most stable employment, and the highest standard of living in the world. Because their productivity is so much lower, the income and standard of living of an average European worker is about on par with workers in America's poorest state, Mississippi.

Europeans are also twice as likely to be unemployed as our workers.

And economic conditions keep getting better for the U.S. work force.

The national unemployment rate of 5.4 percent in August was the lowest in 34 months, far below the 6.25 percent average since 1970, and a significant improvement from 6.2 percent in July 2003.

Since Labor Day 2003, the unemployment rate has declined in all but one state, and the employment picture is so strong that three states set record-low jobless rates this year.

Unemployed workers are also finding it easier to find jobs this year—the median number of weeks unemployed is the lowest since 2001, and is two weeks shorter than

last year. The number of discouraged workers as a percentage of the labor force is lower now than during the corresponding period of the last economic expansion.

We have had 34 consecutive quarters of growth in real wages for American workers, the longest string of real-wage increases since the 1960s. Real wages for U.S. workers increased by 5 percent since last Labor Day, and are currently increasing at the highest rate in three years.

The improvements in the labor market have been largely responsible for a huge surge in consumer confidence since last Labor Day.

Consumer confidence has increased in eight out of the last 12 months, and hit a

two-year high in July—a stunning improvement of 30 points since July 2003, the largest yearly gain since 1996.

The strong labor market conditions and surging confidence have sent American workers on the biggest spending spree in American history—consumers spent more on retail sales in July than in any single other month in U.S. history. Retail sales since last Labor Day are up by 7 percent, the fastest pace in four years.

Record-low interest rates and the improving economy also boosted both home sales and the homeownership rate to all-time record highs in 2004.

Fortunately, the biggest gains in homeownership recently have been by minority

households, households under 35 years, and households with income less than the median. Homeownership has never been more affordable for the average working household than today.

Workers in the United States can celebrate Labor Day this year with pride as the most productive and highest paid workers in the world. In the international competition for labor productivity, American workers take all of the gold medals.

Workers can also be thankful that the "jobless recovery" of 2002 and 2003 has now turned into a full and robust economic expansion that promises to keep getting better in the future.

Improvements for workers since last Labor Day have been so positive that, for the first time in the current economic expansion that officially started in November 2001, we can confidently say that the labor market has finally made its long-awaited comeback.

Mark J. Perry is an economist at the University of Michigan-Flint and an adjunct scholar at the Macdonald Center for Public Policy, a research and educational institute in Midland, Mich.

We have had 34 consecutive quarters of growth in real wages for American workers, the longest string of real-wage increases since the 1960s.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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Cougars just visiting

WA DUVALL — Three 6-week-old cougar kittens were found in a couple's back yard, and authorities have no idea how they ended up there.

The kittens were found behind the home of Steve Schroeder and Sheila MacDonald in this rural town. They took the little cougars to the animal welfare organization PAWS in Lynnwood the next day. There the kittens are being fed by wildlife specialists working to prevent them from imprinting on humans.

They weighed 3 pounds each when found and now weigh 5 pounds each.

When police dogs attack

IN EVANSVILLE — This police dog didn't take a bite out of crime. He bit an elderly man watching authorities conduct a search being filmed by a local TV crew.

The canine that was tracking a gunman bit John Terry, a resident of Senior World retirement community, who was watching the search.

Terry did not require medical treatment, police said. He was sitting on an outdoor swing surveying the scene when the dog came up from behind and bit him on the right arm.

A camera crew from Evansville TV station WHET was taping the police search, and got the bite on video.

Ribs fest kicks off

NV SPARKS — Some 300,000 people are expected to pig out on about 130,000 pounds of pork ribs.

The 16th annual Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-off got off to a sizzling start Thursday, and was to cook up ribs through Monday.

All the meaty bones are coming from Curly's Foods Inc., in Sioux City, Iowa.

The five-day cook-off attracts an estimated 300,000 who chow on "two-and-a-quarter down, St. Louis style" ribs.

First prize is \$7,500, a 4-foot trophy and, perhaps most important, bragging rights.

Cleaner spending spree

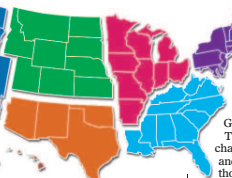
MD BALTIMORE — Three state agencies paid much more than they should have for janitorial supplies from July 2001 through last November, according to a state audit.

The report found that the State Highway Administration, Springfield Hospital Center and Morgan State University paid as much as 28 times more than the best-available prices.

The three agencies bought goods worth a total of \$14 million from 17 companies through the period that auditors identified as showing a pattern of paying exorbitant prices, the report said.

Religious signs ban

FL TALLAHASSEE — The state Supreme Court says a Boca Raton ordinance banning upright crosses and Stars of David in a city cemetery doesn't violate a state law protecting religious freedom. The court notes the prohibition is



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

just against vertical markers, not against religious signs. The ACLU sued the city on behalf of 400 families who used religious symbols as monuments.

Family sues Six Flags

CT HARTFORD — The family of a Bloomfield man who fell from a roller coaster at Six Flags New England filed a wrongful death lawsuit, saying the amusement park's owners have failed to live up to a settlement agreement.

Stanley Mordarsky, 55, was killed May 1 when he tumbled from the "Superman, Ride of Steel" coaster at the Agawam, Mass., park.

A settlement that was reached after the accident would have given \$450,000 to Mordarsky's mother and brother. The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court seeks \$1.5 million for Mordarsky's estate.

Speeder caught

MI GRAND HAVEN — Authorities couldn't catch him, but they knew where to find him.

After receiving complaints in recent days about a motorcyclist repeatedly speeding on Interstate 196, deputies decided to wait for him alongside the highway.

They spotted the motorcyclist heading east. He was a blur as he blew past, and the deputies briefly gave chase. They clocked him doing 154 mph on a motorcycle on I-196.



Piggy party

Minor's Farm's Daisy the potbellied pig sits in a baby carriage during her 10th birthday party at the Bristol, Conn., Boys & Girls Club.

"If he's going 150, obviously we're not going to catch him," said Ottawa County sheriff's Sgt. Bill DeWitt.

Deputies arrested the 21-year-old man a short time later at his job in Grand Rapids.

The man faces several charges, including speeding and fleeing and eluding authorities, said DeWitt.

Medical settlement

MS BILOXI — A Mississippi man was awarded more than \$1.4 million in damages for injuries he suffered during unnecessary brain surgery.

Charles Connetti sued the doctors at Memorial Hospital in Gulfport and Charity Hospital in New Orleans in 2001. Surgeon Michael Lowry and radiologist Michael Diaz were accused of causing permanent neurological damage to Connetti. Lowry performed the surgery to remove a cyst. The cyst was in the brain of another patient who later died.

Mended heart

OH CINCINNATI — An Iraqi girl who had heart surgery was released from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Fatma Saad Al-Hadi, 10, is expected to spend at least five weeks living with a family in suburban Anderson Township. She came to the United States after her father brought her to a U.S. military base near Baghdad.

An Army physician's assistant helped arrange her travel and treatment.

Record fine over trout

ID LEWISTON — A record fine has been imposed on a Texas man for violating Idaho trout fishing regulations. Glen Corthum, 63, of Midland agreed to pay \$4,350 for exceeding the rainbow trout limit at north-central Idaho's Moose Creek Reservoir. Corthum caught 58 more trout than the legal limit of six. Corthum told conservation agents that there weren't any trout in Texas and he was trying to bring home as many as he could.

Man pleads not guilty

WI RACINE — A man accused of beating, kidnapping and leaving his former wife in a locked, unheated storage unit last winter pleaded not guilty to five charges during a preliminary hearing.

David M. Larsen, 40, is accused of ambushing his ex-wife, Teri Jendusa-Nicolai, when she stopped at his home to pick up their children Jan. 31. Investigators say he beat her with bat, stuffed her in a plastic garbage container and then left her in an unheated storage facility in Illinois.

Park may be fines

CA SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK — Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park may be fined \$75,000 for defying air quality authorities by setting a controlled fire.

The San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District said officials willfully disobeyed a June 30 ban on burning. Park authorities disagreed with the air board's findings and started the blaze.



Practice makes perfect

Crystal Barnes, 11, plays her new baritone horn on the porch of her family's Bentonville, Ark., home as her dog, Stormy, listens from a living room window.



Hang on tight

Eric Feherenbach, center, hangs on to his daughters, Ellie, 7, left, and Emalee, 5, as they fly from the top of the bungee ride at the Central Wisconsin State Fair in Marshfield, Wis.



Stream of fire

A section of the wildfire northwest of Amidon, N.D., flares as a line of flames consumes timber in the hills along the Little Missouri River.



Statuesque bathers

Geese swim in a pond with the sculpture called "The Bathers" at Griffis Sculpture Park in Ashford Hollow, N.Y.



Curious cubs

Two 11 week-old Bengal tiger cubs explore a man-made waterfall at Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge near Tyler, Texas. The brothers were rescued from a facility in Arkansas 10 weeks ago.



Braving mouth of beast

Dave Brickner of Cheektowaga, N.Y., peers out from inside the mouth of "The Beast" at the annual New York State Fair in Geddes, N.Y. Brickner is an employee at the inflatable haunted house.

Prostitution declines

RI WOONSOCKET — Police say prostitution has declined following the arrest of a city man for the murders of three women with histories of drug use and prostitution.

Detective Cmdr. Luke Gallant said recent stings and undercover operations suggest there is less prostitution, although the department has not yet compiled the relevant arrest statistics to determine the extent of the drop.

In a sting, the police arrested just three men on charges of soliciting prostitutes.

"We arrested three, but there were at least 12 more out there who pulled up and talked to the woman but came short of actual solicitation before they got nervous, backed up and pulled away," Gallant told The Providence Journal.

He said the department has not changed the way it tackles prostitution problems, and has not needed to.

There's no doubt the Jeffrey Mailhot investigation made Johns aware that we're out there," he said. Mailhot was charged last month in connection with three women's deaths.

Policy not renewed

AZ LAKE HAVASU CITY — The city's insurance policy will not be renewed, apparently because the carrier fears too much liability related to carbon monoxide at the lake. The city received a non-renewal notice from United National Insurance Co., which provides its general liability coverage. Its broker and city staff said the company was worried about potential claims resulting from carbon monoxide poisoning at the Bridgewater Channel, where idling boats have created excess fumes on holiday weekends.

School crackdown

ME PORTLAND — High schools in southern Maine have drafted rules on attire, cell phones and what students can do during breaks. Portland High School banned card and dice games on school property. The principal of Deering High School hired a lawyer to define "appropriate" attire for its 1,300 students. Old Orchard Beach High School rolled back a four-year ban on cell phones, but students can't use them during school hours.

School enrollment starts

AR NORTH LITTLE ROCK — The state kicked off a campaign to enroll 7,000 poor children in free preschool programs by Oct. 1.

The Legislature approved \$40 million for expanding early childhood education programs in response to a court order to improve schools.

Experts cited studies showing that a good start in school was linked to improved performance later.

Mass layoffs slowing

LA NEW ORLEANS The number of large-scale layoffs in Louisiana slowed only a bit in 2004 with more than 11,000 workers losing their jobs en masse this year, according to the U.S. Labor Department. For the first seven months of 2003, there were

123 mass layoffs that took 122,074 workers off payrolls. The report covers employers who cut at least 50 workers in a given month.

Hepatitis C cases down

WI MADISON — The number of reported hepatitis C cases in Wisconsin fell off last year after a fivefold increase between 1997 and 2002, state officials said. They attribute the overall increase to greater awareness of testing for hepatitis C and reporting requirements. Wisconsin reported 828 cases in 1997, the first year the state collected data. Last year, 3,593 new cases were reported, down from 4,203 in 2002.

Gamblers getting help

OR PORTLAND — Record numbers of Oregonians are enrolling in the state's free gambling addictions treatment program, health officials say. For the first time, there isn't enough money to meet the growing demand, said Jeffrey Marotta, a psychologist for the state Department of Human Services. He said more than 1,500 gamblers, with debts averaging more than \$19,000, signed up in fiscal 2003.

Summertime chill

MN MINNEAPOLIS — From the northern forests of International Falls to the farm fields south of the Twin Cities, summer has felt like fall. Up north, it was the coldest summer on record in International Falls and Hibbing and the fourth coldest in 65 years in Duluth. Temperatures dipped into the 30s at Duluth International Airport this summer on six days, just two short of the numbers of days temperatures hit 80 degrees.

Bear hunt

NJ VERNON — Wildlife officials are considering another December bear hunt after an unusually large number of human encounters with bears occurred in northern New Jersey last month.

Farmers and homeowners in four counties reported more than 30 home invasions and attacks on pets and livestock. More than 300 bears were killed during the state's first bear hunt in 33 years last December, wildlife officials said.

Bear-proof bins

MT BROWNING — Wildlife managers on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation are installing 25 new bear-proof garbage containers, hoping to reduce conflicts that have led them to kill at least 15 black bears this summer.

Experts say a weak summer berry crop has bears on the prowl for easy food sources, and garbage cans full of food and trash are an easy target.

Dan Carney, a wildlife biologist for the tribe, said typically three or four bears will be destroyed each year after causing problems on the reservation. The deaths this year are "way up," he said.

With the help of a tribal wildlife grant and the Defenders of Wildlife, Blackfoot officials spent about \$41,000 on the new bear-proof bins, he said. Workers placed the bins at different locations over the past two weeks.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



FACES 'N' PLACES



NEW YORK DAILY NEWS/KIT

Terrier-spaniel mix Benji checks out the scene outside the Plaza Hotel in New York. The film-star pooch was in town to promote her new movie, "Benji: Off the Leash."

Benji bounds back for Big Apple film

By JOE NEUMAIER
New York Daily News

NEW YORK

She comes out of the Plaza Hotel, her hair billowing behind her, shaking her tail and licking the hands of her fans — just another starlet out for a stroll in Central Park. Except her name is Benji.

The fourth Benji, to be exact, a terrier-spaniel mix and star of "Benji: Off the Leash," which opened Friday. The latest hero-dog adventure from writer/director Joe Camp is the first since 1987's "Benji the Hunted."

In the park, as kids and adults stop to say hello, the star (who's recovering from cataract surgery in her left eye) allows her fluffy, blown-dry fur to be patted.

Occasionally, an errant squirrel or miniature Doberman gets her attention, but then it's back to business: listening attentively, shaking a paw and raising those expressive eyebrows that are a Benji trademark.

Back in the '60s, the first dog to play Benji — a canine thespian called Higgins, and the only one not named Benji

"[Benji] has got to be pretty, think on her feet, be independent, have sparkle, and be smart — sort of like Miss America."

Joe Camp

writer/director of 'Benji: Off the Leash'

— found fame on TV's "Petticoat Junction." Higgins was recruited for the first "Benji" movie in 1974, after Camp, a former advertising executive and life-long dog lover, took inspiration from Disney's "Lady & the Tramp" and decided to make a family film from an animal's point of view. He named the main character after his and his late wife's dog.

Camp approached Higgins' trainer, the late Frank Inn, and "Benji" — released by Camp's own distribution company after every major studio passed on it — became one of 1975's top 10 box-office hits.

"Even most trainers in Hollywood said it couldn't be

done," Camp says. "They said you couldn't have a dog so independent and confident that you could drop him into any situation and tell the story through his eyes."

At the end of '75, Higgins passed away at the age of 15, and Camp kept the dog's death secret so as not to disturb kids. Higgins' daughter starred in 1977's "For the Love of Benji," as well as TV specials, 1980's Chevy Chase comedy "Oh! Heavenly Dog" and "Benji the Hunted."

When that Benji passed away in 1991, there was a third dog, a male — sort of the George Lazenby of Benjis — who did book covers as the film series was leashed in litigation.

This latest Benji, now 3, was found in a shelter in Mississippi and has adapted well to her new stardom — doing shelter benefits around the country and traveling first-class under Camp's seat to promote the movie.

The actor who plays Benji, says Camp, "has got to be pretty, think on her feet, be independent, have sparkle, and be smart — sort of like Miss America."

The secret of the films' success, says Camp, is that "they're all about struggle and not giving up. When you see that story, you bond with the character, whether it's human or canine."

New album to support Sudan refugees

A new album featuring exclusive tracks from Ash, R.E.M. and David Gray has been released to raise money for the hundreds of thousands of people who have been driven from their homes in Sudan's Darfur region.

Badly Drawn Boy, Futureheads and Faithless also are featured on the 14-track album, "Songs for Sudan," being launched for Oxfam's Sudan appeal. "By buying this album you can help Oxfam save lives," a spokesman for the relief agency said Friday.

Arab militias known as the Janjaweed are blamed for violence that has killed up to 30,000 people and forced more than 1.2 million to flee their homes in the large Darfur region of western Sudan.

All artists and record labels donating tracks to the album, which is based out of London, are forgoing their royalties. The album sells for \$14.32, of which \$8.96 will go directly to the appeal. The donation from each album

sale could be used to provide 15 refugees with clean drinking water, Oxfam said.

Peter Fonda gets Spirit of Montana Award

Actor, director and Montana resident Peter Fonda will receive the first Gary Cooper Spirit of Montana Award, according to the fledgling film festival giving out the award.

Jeff Bridges will present the award from the Hatch House Divisional Arts Festival, scheduled for Sept. 9-12. Like Fonda, Bridges has a home in Montana's Paradise Valley.

Penny Ronning, the festival's chairwoman, told the Livingston Enterprise the award honors Fonda's contribution to film and the arts and his ties to Montana.

Fonda said he was honored to receive an award named for Cooper, whom he knew through his father, Henry Fonda.

"He was a great Westerner — his bearing, everything about him," Fonda said of Cooper. "When I found out he was from Montana, I thought 'Well, that's why.'"

Peter Fonda produced and costarred in the landmark film "Easy Rider."

Liotta to star as special guest on 'ER'

"ER" is taking a note from "24" by doing a real-time episode, and is bringing actor Ray Liotta along for the ride.

The episode, to air Nov. 11, will follow every moment of guest star Liotta's hospital visit. He plays an alcoholic ex-con with cirrhosis of the liver and a host of other problems.

The real-time narrative is a first for the NBC emergency room drama. "ER" has previously experimented with different structures, but the series' famous live broadcast in 1997 wasn't in real time.

"In a way, this is the inverse of that," co-producer David Zaslav said Thursday. "We also have never tracked one patient the whole time through the show."

The trademark "ER" style is one of crosscutting and story lines that intertwine with each passing gurney. The editing allows "ER" to sometimes skip over the uglier or more mundane aspects of emergency room treatment.

Stories and Photos From The Associated Press



R.E.M. singer Michael Stipe



Fonda



Liotta

Fotrot



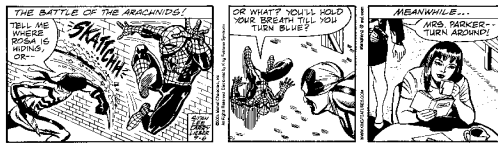
B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



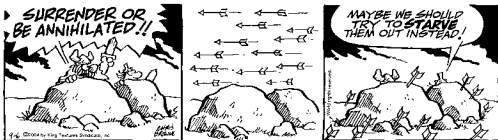
Blondie



Dilbert



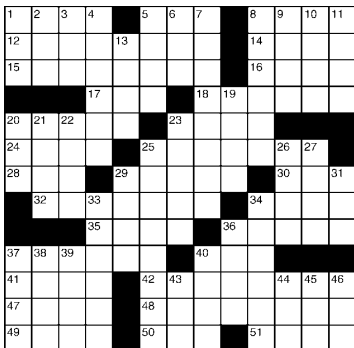
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

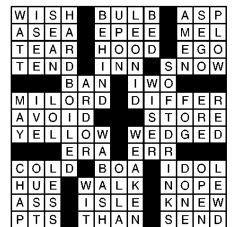
- 1 Brilliant stroke
5 Pump up the volume
8 Computer data unit
12 Spectator
14 Understand a transmission
15 NBC news show
16 Tangelo
17 X rating?
18 Rub elbows
20 Preamble
23 Ocean motion
24 Creche figure
25 Direct course
28 Omega predecessor
29 "— Jacques"

- 50 Sun, speech
51 Dog's "dogs"

Down

- 1 Massachusetts cape
2 — shoestring
3 Last (Abbr.)
4 Verse
5 Related
6 Chaps
7 Opening night
8 Malay sultanate
9 Safecracker
10 Lofty
11 Falco of "The Sopranos"
13 Bread spread
19 Between jobs
20 Mischiefvous
21 Crosby, Stills & —
22 Small combo
23 Adolescence
25 Gets defensive
26 In the neighborhood
27 Bridge position
29 Scoot
31 Your
33 "— Company"
34 Evolve
36 Slapstick missiles
37 Grouch
38 Places
39 Emanation
40 Place of worship?
43 Wrath
44 Playwright Levin
45 Inexperienced
46 Double curve

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-6

CRYPTOQUIP

HG E RCJLI IRULEXV HX
XUEFV-UCJVTNP. H XJOOCXN
TN WCJDP IHKN RCJ GDHO
XNFKHWN.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE ELECTRICIAN GOT DISQUALIFIED FROM THE RACE. HE'D MADE AN ILLEGAL SHORT CIRCUIT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals P

JIM DAVIES 9-6

Child needs responsible parent

Dear Abby: I am a 60-year-old woman. My children are grown and I have four grandchildren. I also have a godchild named "Noah," whom I adore.

Noah's mother, "Fay," didn't want him when he was born, but was talked out of giving him up by her mother and me. Her mother has since passed away.

Abby, I thought Fay would get over it, but she still doesn't want Noah. She blames him for taking her freedom away. The child is only 5 and adores his mother. No matter what she does, Noah loves her.

Fay is abusive. She yells and screams at Noah, calls him stupid and other names, keeps him in his room most of the time.

He is not a happy little boy. He has so much anger in him at such an early age. Fay was abused by her mother like she's doing to her son. I have tried to get her help, but she says there's

nothing wrong with her. How can I make Fay see that by turning Noah into a monster? The father took off as soon as he found out Fay was pregnant. He has never seen his son. Please advise me.

— **Out of My Mind in Texas**

Dear Abby:



Since you are Noah's godmother and there is nobody else, it is now your turn to step up to the plate. You are responsible for the fact that this unfit mother didn't place her unwanted child for adoption at birth. You are only 60 — you're not out of the hill. Why don't YOU take Noah in and give him the love and support he needs — and possibly psychological counseling to undo the damage that has been done?

Dear Abby: I recently learned that my twin sister, "Leslie," is pregnant. When I heard the news, I told her I wanted to throw her a baby shower. I

have two little ones of my own, and my twin hosted my baby shower when I was pregnant with my first. Leslie was excited and gave me a thumbs up.

Today I was told that an aunt on her husband's side wants to give her a shower, and it sounds as if that's the way it's going to be. This aunt has always been bossy and pushy, and Leslie and her husband are afraid to refuse. I don't expect my twin to offend the other side of the family, but what about me? Am I being petty? My feelings are hurt.

— **Rejected Twin**
Dear Twin: Please stop feeling hurt. Rather than being bossy or pushy, the aunt may instead be a stickler for proper etiquette.

According to "Emily Post's Etiquette" (16th Edition): "Mothers and sisters of the mother-to-be should not give a shower, although sisters-in-law, close friends, aunts or cousins may."

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69404, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter for each square, to form four ordinary words.

NEUSE

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

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YOSIN

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

RAPPOL

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

PHELER

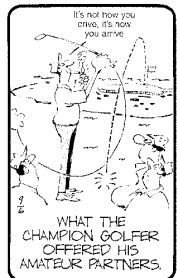
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Answer:

Saturday's Jumbles: LOONY TAWNY OUTCRY ROBBER

Answer: How she felt after modeling clothes all day — "WORN" OUT

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrison



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Strip-club fondling affects marriage

Dear Annie: My husband returned after a year's deployment with the Army. We were so happy to have him back. However, in a casual conversation, he told me that he and his buddies had gone to a stripper bar while in the States. It was amateur night, and he knew one of the girls performing. He tried to "help her relax" by stroking several parts of her body while she gyrated. He was thrown out of the bar for fondling the dancer. He thinks this story is hilarious.

I, of course, was less amused and have asked him to leave our home of 17 years until I can think things out. He swears he only touched her. I think he crossed a line and wonder if things would have progressed had he not been tossed out.

Am I being too harsh? He swears this is the first time he has ever done anything like this, but I can't let it sit. He touched another woman intimately, and if I let him get away with it, I suspect he

not only will do it again, he might do more.

We have two daughters who are devastated that Daddy has moved out, and they think I'm crazy for showing him the door.

— **Skeptical Wife**
Dear Wife: Although we usually are inclined to cut our servicemen a little slack, this is not one of those cases.

Your husband has no business stroking a semi-naked woman. The bad news is, he sees nothing wrong with his behavior. The good news is, he told you.

Please don't throw away 17 years without first seeing a marriage counselor, who can help you work through the trust issues and explain to your husband why his actions were a betrayal.

Dear Annie: Every August, my wife and I go on a vacation with her relatives. We rent a house, and the cost is divided equally between the four couples. That's the problem. I think it should be divided by the total

number of people.

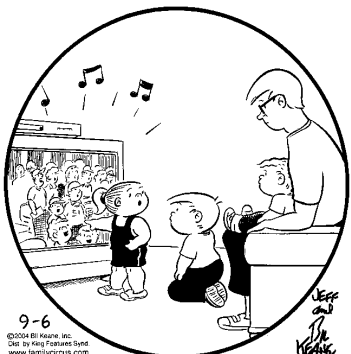
Unlike the other family members, we do not have children, so why should we pay the same rate? We also are forced to take these vacations in the summer, when prices are at their peak, because that's when the kids are out of school.

Should we bring this up with the other family members before next summer or suffer in silence?

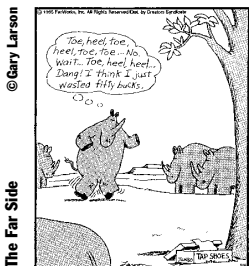
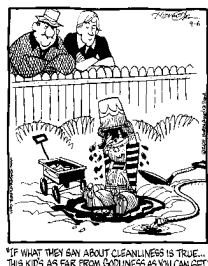
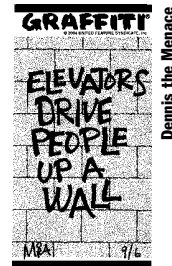
— **Tired of Being Overcharged**
Dear Tired: Might as well bring it up, because you sound as if you are not willing to suffer in silence much longer. Family vacations can be wonderful, but yours sounds like a recipe for trouble. Discuss it with your wife, and then ask the relatives about a more equitable payment plan. Otherwise, consider vacationing alone, before you become so resentful that you throw in the beach towel altogether.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 3777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"Why are they singing 'Take Me Out to the Ballgame'? They're already there."



Red Sox streak broken at 10; Ponson shuts out Yankees

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox lost for the first time in 11 games, falling to the Texas Rangers 8-6 Saturday and missing a chance to pull within 1½ games of the New York Yankees in the American League East.

Michael Young hit a three-run homer off Tim Wakefield (11-8), and Rod Barajas went 3-for-4 with a two-run shot to help Texas snap a five-game losing streak.

The Red Sox, who had won 10 straight and 16 of 17 to climb from 10½ games back in the AL East, remained 2½ games behind the division-leading Yankees.

"I couldn't let that stuff affect me," Young said of Boston's run. "If you get wrapped up in that stuff, you're done before you start."

New York lost to Baltimore 7-0, and had the Red Sox won, they could have pulled within 1½ games for the first time since June 2, when they began the day one game back.

Texas pulled within six games of the Red Sox in the AL wild-card race.

Mark Bellhorn hit his second career grand slam and David Ortiz added a solo shot to Boston, which rallied from an 8-1 deficit with a five-run seventh.

Chris Young (1-1) held Boston to two hits and one run over 5½ innings for his first major league win.

"We scored some runs and Chris was outstanding," Texas manager Buck Showalter said.

Orioles 7, Yankees 0: Sidney Ponson pitched a two-hitter for his fourth career shutout, and Rafael Palmeiro hit one of the Orioles' three homers as visiting Baltimore trounced New York.

Ponson (10-13) struck out four and walked one in his 27th career complete game and fifth this season. He faced just 29 hitters, two more than the minimum, and did not allow a runner past first base.

Jay Gibbons and Brian Roberts also connected for the Orioles, who scored four against Mariano Rivera in the ninth. Baltimore has won six in a row following a 12-game losing streak.

Mike Mussina (9-9) allowed



Kansas City Royals' Angel Berroa, right, steals second base as Minnesota Twins shortstop Cristian Guzman, left, waits for the throw Saturday in Minneapolis. The AL Central-leading Twins beat the Royals 4-3.

just two runs in seven innings for the Yankees.

Athletics 5, Blue Jays 5: Oakland scored twice on wild pitches to tie it and Eric Byrnes provided insurance with a three-run double in the ninth inning as Oakland won at Toronto for its 16th victory in 18 games.

Oakland pulled within 5-4 in the eighth on a wild pitch from Vinnie Chulk, then tied it in the ninth on another miscue by Jason Frasor. Mark McLemore put the A's ahead with a sacrifice fly before Byrnes' big hit.

Chris Hammond (4-1) pitched two innings in relief of Mark Mulder for the win.

Twins 4, Royals 3: Terry Lofgren led off the bottom of the ninth with his first major league home run as Minnesota beat Kansas City for its fifth straight victory.

Tiffie went 3-for-4 and is hitting .462 since arriving in Minneapolis on Sept. 1.

Justin Morneau put the Twins up early with a three-run shot in the first.

J.C. Romero (6-1) extended his team-record scoreless streak to 33½ innings. Denny Reyes (3-8) took the loss.

Angels 6, Indians 1: Jarrod Washburn returned from the disabled list and won for the first time since July 15 as visiting Anaheim dominated Cleveland.

Washburn (11-5), sidelined since July 20 with an injured big toe, allowed two hits in five innings to help the Angels remain four games behind Oakland in the AL West and move within 3½ games of Boston in the wild-card race.

Beginning in the third inning, unidentified flying objects — they appeared to be gnats — infested the playing field and the lower tier of seats.

Between pitches, batters swatted at the insects and fans used whatever they could to keep the winged critters out of their faces.

Angels DH Troy Glaus had to be attended by a trainer after one of them flew in his eye during an at-bat in the fifth inning.



San Francisco Giants' Dustin Mohr scores on a hit by Delvi Cruz during the eighth inning in San Francisco on Saturday. The Giants rallied from a 7-1 deficit to beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 9-7.

Edmonds clubs No. 300 as Cards down Dodgers

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Shortly after hitting his 300th career home run, Jim Edmonds got put in his place.

Former teammate Mark McGwire left a taunting message on Edmonds' cell phone, reminding him just how far he is from Big Mac's 583.

"I can't remember the number he said, but I've got a long way to go," Edmonds said after the St. Louis Cardinals' 5-1 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Saturday night. "And I don't think I'm going to make it."

Jason Marquis won his 11th straight decision and the Cardinals won their eighth in a row, matching their season high.

The NL Central leaders needed only two hits — tying their season low — to beat the NL West-leading Dodgers for the second straight night. Playing in front of a sellout crowd of 45,692, they tied their longest winning streak of the season and won for the 13th time in 15 games.

Adrian Beltré had three hits and drove in his 100th run with an eighth-inning double for the Dodgers to cut the gap to 5-1. He's only the third third baseman in franchise history to reach the milestone, joining Ron Cey and Pedro Guerrero.

Edmonds became the 103rd member of the 300-homer club with a two-run shot in the second off Kazuhisa Ishii (13-7).

Giants 9, Diamondbacks 7: Dustin Mohr doubled in the tying run in the eighth and Delvi Cruz hit a go-ahead, two-run single as San Francisco came back from a 7-1 deficit to beat the visiting Diamondbacks for the seventh straight time.

Marquis Grissom hit a grand slam and also started the eighth-inning rally with a single.

The Giants pulled within a half-game of the idle Chicago Cubs in the National League wild-card race. The Cubs had their weekend series at Florida postponed because of Hurricane Frances.

Barry Bonds went 2-for-3 with a double and a walk.

Scott Eyre (1-2) pitched the eighth for the win and Dustin Hernandez finished for his ninth save.

Astros 6, Pirates 5: Mike Lamb hit a go-ahead RBI double in the seventh inning as Houston

extended its season-high winning streak to eight games.

Houston has won 10 of its last 12 games, and 16 of its last 19 to move two games behind idle Chicago in the NL wild-card race.

Chad Qualls (3-0) threw one inning of relief for the win. Brad Lidge pitched the ninth for his 20th save in 23 opportunities.

Jason Bay and Jack Wilson each homered for visiting Pittsburgh, which has lost 13 of its last 18 and was mathematically eliminated from the NL Central Division race.

Braves 9, Expos 0: Russ Ortiz pitched a three-hit shutout at Olympic Stadium and Andrew Jones hit a grand slam to help the Atlanta Braves beat Montreal and win its fifth straight game.

Ortiz (14-7) retired the first 15 batters before Edgar Renteria lined a clean, single to right-center to lead off the sixth.

The Braves have won 11 of 12, and are 35-12 since the All-Star break.

Phillies 7, Mets 0: Cory Lidle threw a three-hitter for his second straight shutout as Philadelphia extended visiting New York's losing streak to eight games.

Lidle is the first Philadelphia pitcher to toss consecutive shutouts since Curt Schilling in 1992.

Jimmy Rollins hit a three-run homer and Jason Michaels scored twice for the Phillies, who are 8-13 since Aug. 12 — with all of their wins against last-place Milwaukee and the Mets.

Brewers 7, Reds 3: Russell Branyan and Keith Ginter each hit three-run homers and rookie Ben Hendrickson earned his first major league victory as Milwaukee downed Cincinnati at Miller Park.

Hendrickson (1-6) pitched six solid innings to avoid being the first pitcher in 25 years to lose in each of his first seven major league games.

Rockies 8, Padres 2: Shawn Estes pitched seven solid innings and had two hits, and J.D. Closser hit his first major league homer as Colorado won at San Diego.

Estes (14-0) allowed two runs and four hits, matching the single-season team record for wins by a left hander, first set by Mike Hampton in 2001.

Ichiro picks up pace with 5-for-5 night

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Teams have no idea how to pitch to Ichiro Suzuki these days.

"He's got everybody in the other dugout shaking their heads," Seattle manager Bob Melvin said. "It's almost laughable."

Suzuki went 5-for-5, but Paul Konerko hit two home runs and Mark Buehrle pitched seven strong innings to lead the Chicago White Sox to an 8-7 victory over the Mariners on Saturday night.

Suzuki leads the majors with 223 hits, 34 short of the all-time single-season record. He has 27 games remaining to reach the record of 257 hits, set by George Sisler in 1920 with the St. Louis Browns.

"You pitch the guy wide, inside, up or down and it doesn't matter," said Buehrle, who allowed four of Suzuki's five singles.

"He didn't hit the ball hard — it barely got out of the infield — and he's still 5-for-5."

Suzuki has had five or more hits in a game three times — all this season. He has two or more hits in six of his last seven games.

Buehrle (13-8), who left after seven innings with an 8-3 lead, even lobbed an eephus pitch to start Suzuki's seventh-inning at-bat.

"In Japan, I saw that a lot," Suzuki said through a translator. "But here, it's probably the first time."

Seattle starter Ryan Franklin (3-14) suffered his 10th straight loss.

Yankees' Brown out minimum of three weeks

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Yankees pitcher Kevin Brown will miss at least three weeks — and possibly the rest of the season — after breaking his left hand when he punched a wall in the clubhouse.

Brown was examined Saturday at Yankee Stadium by team physician Dr. Stuart Hershorn and hand specialist Dr. Melvin Rosenwasser.

The pitcher was scheduled to have surgery Sunday to insert a pin into his hand. "We're hopeful we can get him back in a few weeks," manager Joe Torre said. "A lot of it will depend on the healing and the comfort. We don't worry about the comfort too much. I think Brown was hoping he could just tape it up and go. That's not what's going to happen."

Frustrated by an injury-filled season, Brown made it much worse Friday night when he broke two bones in his non-pitching hand by punching a clubhouse wall during the sixth inning of New York's 3-1 loss to the Baltimore Orioles.

That was the end of his hitting. One of the fractures extends into his wrist, requiring the pin. Now the best-case scenario for Brown (10-4) and the Yankees is that he misses three weeks — though he could be done for the year.

Wagner activated from DL

PHILADELPHIA — Reliever Brian Schneider was activated by the Philadelphia Phillies on Saturday after missing more than a month with a strained left rotator cuff.

Wagner, a major offseason acquisition for the Phillies, has 16 saves in 18 chances this season. He is 3-0 with a 3.12 ERA and 46 strikeouts in 34 1/3 innings spanning 31 appearances.

Wagner was placed on the DL on July 30. He also was on the DL for more than three weeks earlier this season because of a strained groin.

A's Dye has fractured thumb

TORONTO — Oakland Athletics right fielder Jermaine Dye missed Saturday's game because of a fractured left thumb and isn't expected to be back in the lineup for some time.

Dye left Friday's game in the sixth inning because of soreness. He also missed the previous three games and has been bothered by it for about a month. He broke it while diving for a ball in early August.

Padres retire Gwynn's No. 19

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Padres retired former All-Star outfielder Tony Gwynn's jersey No. 19 before their game against the Colorado Rockies on Saturday night.

Gwynn tied the National League record with eight batting championships during his 20-year career — all with the Padres.



De La Salle running back Dustin Watson (20) is tackled by Bellevue linebacker E.J. Savannah during Bellevue's 39-20 win Saturday in Seattle. It was De La Salle's first loss since Dec. 7, 1991.

Calif. H.S. team beaten after 151 wins in a row

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — A California football team's 151-game winning streak, the nation's longest, ended Saturday when Bellevue High School beat De La Salle High of Concord, Calif., 39-20 before a crowd of 24,987 at Qwest Field.

De La Salle had not lost a game since falling in the 1991 North Coast Section championship game Dec. 7, 1991, when the current seniors on the team were in kindergarten.

The De La Salle Spartans broke the nation's previous longest winning streak at 72 games in 1997, going on to more than double it.

Coach Bob Ladouceur, who now has a 287-15-1 record in a quarter century at the suburban San Francisco school, was gracious in defeat, and said it was just time for De La Salle to finally lose.

"I'm all for there being a lot of king of the hills, not just one," he said. "Bellevue represented their state well."

The streak — the longest in perhaps any sport — created a near-cult following for Ladouceur. The program at the private, all-boys school has inspired two books, a documentary and national telecasts of games, and last month earned the Spartans a seven-page spread in Sports Illustrated.

Report: Dolphins trying to recover millions from Williams

MIAMI — The Miami Dolphins have filed a grievance against Ricky Williams, asking an arbitrator to uphold their contractual right to recover \$8.6 million paid to the retired running back between signing bonus and incentives, the Miami Herald reported on its Web site Saturday.

NFL Players' Association attorney Richard Berthelsen told the newspaper that the Dolphins asked that the hearing be expedited so the case can proceed within the next few weeks.

The Herald reported last week that Williams called the team, tell-

ing them he would come back if he received a new contract. The Dolphins declined that request.

Spinks retains undisputed title

LAS VEGAS — Cory Spinks easily retained his undisputed welterweight championship Saturday night, unanimously outpointing Miguel Angel Gonzalez at Mandalay Bay.

Spinks (34-2) won 10 of the 12 rounds on all three judges cards in dominant performances.

A former 140-pound champion, Gonzalez (49-4-1) pressed the action but could not answer Spinks' footspeed.

Olympic silver medalist charged in boyfriend's death

BRUSH, Colo. — Olympic wrestling silver medalist Sara McMann has been charged with careless driving causing death following a crash that killed her boyfriend, the Colorado State Patrol said Saturday.

Steven Blackford, 28, a three-time NCAA All-American wrestler at Arizona State, died Friday when the Jeep they were in rolled off the shoulder of Interstate 76 in northeastern Colorado, police said.

Both were thrown from the vehicle. Blackford and McMann, who was driving, were not wearing seat belts.

McMann, 23, won silver at the Athens Olympics in the 138½-pound class before losing the championship match to training partner Kaori Icho of Japan.

Crew keep unbeaten run alive

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ross Paulb had a hat trick, and the Columbus Crew extended their team-record unbeaten streak to 11 games Saturday night with a 3-1 victory over the Los Angeles Galaxy.

The Crew are 4-0-7 since June 26.

Singh, Woods locked in struggle for No. 1

The Associated Press

NORTON, Mass. — Second-ranked Vijay Singh shot an 8-under 63 on Saturday to take a two-stroke lead over top-ranked Tiger Woods, Billy Haas and John Rollins after the second round of the Deutsche Bank Championship.

With an eagle on the first hole sparking the best round of the tournament, Singh took the lead from Woods with back-to-back birdies on Nos. 12-13 and moved into position to take Woods' No. 1 ranking, too.

"It's not going to affect me one way or another if I overtake him," said Singh, who has already won five times this year, including the PGA Championship. "Yeah, if I win this tournament, I'll be No. 1. Fine. But what would that change for me? I'm going to go out there next week and do it all over again."

Woods, who shot a 68, has held the No. 1 ranking for a record 264 consecutive weeks. Singh would take over if he finishes higher than Woods or, if Woods finishes lower than a tie for seventh, Singh would come out of the weekend No. 1 no matter what.

Haas had a 64, and Rollins shot a 66.

Donald wins final-round 66 to win European Masters

CRANS-SUR-SIERRE, Switzerland — European Ryder Cup player Luke Donald shot a 5-under-par 66 Sunday to win the European Masters by five strokes for his second European tour victory.

Donald, an Englishman who won the Scandinavian Masters six weeks ago, eagled the opening hole and finished at 19-under 265.

Golf roundup

Third-round leader Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain closed with a 72 and was runner-up at 270.

Sergio Garcia of Spain shot a 73 and shared third place with Robert Coles of England and two-time champion Eduardo Romero of Argentina.

Kerr builds State Farm lead

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Craig Kerr, a shot for second straight 9-under 63 to take a four-stroke lead into the final round of the State Farm Classic.

Kerr, seeking his third victory of the year and fourth in eight full seasons on the PGA Tour, had a 21-under 195 total on the Rail Golf Course — the best 54-hole score on the tour this season. She also moved into position to threaten the 72-hole mark of 27 under set by Annika Sorenstam in the 2001 Standard Register PING.

Christina Kim, who took a four-stroke lead into the round, shot a 71 to finish four strokes back at 17 under.

Stadler looking for back-to-back senior wins

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Craig Stadler moved into position for his second straight victory, shooting a 9-under 63 to take a one-stroke lead over Jay Haas after the second round of the inaugural First Tee Open.

Stadler, who won the Tradition last year in Oregon for his third Champions Tour victory, had two eagles, six birdies and a bogey at Pebble Beach. He had a 9-under 135 total after opening with a 72 on Friday on the Bayonet course.

Canada 3-0 in pool play in World Cup of Hockey

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Martin Brodeur made 27 saves, and Brad Richards, Kris Draper and Joe Sakic scored goals to help Canada beat Russia 3-1 on Saturday night in the World Cup of Hockey, giving the Canadians a 3-0 record in round-robin play.

Canada will play the last-place team in the North American pool in the quarterfinals on Wednesday night in Toronto.

Richards opened the scoring with a short-handed goal early in the second period, and Draper made it 2-0 just 1:37 later. Sakic scored early in the third period, and Russia's Sergei Gonchar completed the scoring midway through the period.

"We did what we have to do," Draper said. "We're 3-0, but we have to realize that we need to get better. It's do or die from here."

Russia (1-1) will complete play in the four-team pool Sunday night in Toronto against Slovakia (0-2). The United States (1-1) fin-

ished pool play Friday night with a 3-1 victory over Slovakia in St. Paul, Minn.

Brodeur stopped Alexander Frolov in alone on a two-on-one in the second period and twice thwarted Alexei Yashin coming out of the corner on a third-period shift.

"It was a special game because I never played against an all-Russian team and I was a little nervous about it," said Brodeur, a 1995-time Stanley Cup champion with the New Jersey Devils and the New York Yankees.

The Nordic rivals both finished unbeaten with five points, but the Finns won the pool on goal differential.

Sweden's Tomas Holmstrom scored a power-play goal with just 11 seconds left in regulation, and neither team could get a goal in the five-minute overtime period.

Wimbledon champ Sharapova ousted from U.S. Open

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Maria Sharapova and her father often trade glances before her matches. In the stands, Dad pounds his fist on his chest, and she mimics the signal.

It represents a simple message — "Play with heart!" — but the Wimbledon champion didn't use the gesture during a 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 upset loss to Mary Pierce in the U.S. Open's third round Saturday.

Instead, right over her sponsor's logo, Sharapova's silver dress carried a plain black ribbon. She wore it in memory of the more than 340 people, nearly half children, killed in a hostage-taking at a school in her native Russia.

"I lost today, but I still have to move on. It's not the end of the world," said Sharapova, who double-faulted 14 times and dropped

the final five games. "There are a lot more important things in the world going on right now."

Given her almost perfect English, her all-grown-up strokes, and her poise on and off the court, it's easy to forget that Sharapova is just 17 and was born in Siberia.

If she hadn't flashed the tennis ability that prompted a move to Florida a decade ago, Sharapova might very well be just another teen readjusting to high school life this week, half a world away.

"The first of September is when so many kids go to school, the first day back. They go in with flowers and the whole family," she said. "Unfortunately, the terrorists decided to do something bad with those families and kids. It just shows that my loss is a little thing."

As far as tennis goes, though, her exit was the day's most significant

development, more surprising than the 3 Carlos Moya's 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 7-5 collapse against 100th-ranked Oliver Rochus of Belgium, at 5-foot-5 the shortest ATP Tour regular.

Otherwise, the top players advanced in straight sets, including Justine Henin-Hardenne, Lindsay Davenport, Venus Williams, Roger Federer, Andre Agassi and Tim Henman.

In early women's play on Sunday, Serena Williams defeated Switzerland's Patty Schnyder 6-4, 6-2.

Agassi's next opponent will be Sargis Sargsian, who erased a two-set deficit and saved two match points to beat Paul-Henri Mathieu 4-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (4) in four hours, 41 minutes. After his second-round upset of No. 10 Nicolas Pietrangeli at 5:09, the second longest match in tournament history — and Sargsian broke the

record for longest consecutive Open matches.

"I don't know how I did it," said Sargsian, an Armenian ranked 54th who has only once before advanced this far in a major.

Rochus, often mistaken by security guards for a ball boy or a junior player, entered the tournament with a 76-101 career mark and an 0-4 Open record. That last fact prompted Moya to act incredulously. "He never won?"

No Rochus is one victory shy of 500 in New York. The Belgian knocked off No. 27 Mario Ancic, a Wimbledon semifinalist, in the first round, and can reach his first Grand Slam quarterfinal by beating No. 22 Donald Byrd.

"That's why you don't underestimate anybody," said Agassi, a 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 winner over No. 25 Jiri Novak.

Novak won the 1998 French Open, but he's been a quarterfi-

nalist at just three of his past 20 majors, and he was largely his own undoing Saturday. He made 61 unforced errors, and double-faulted on match point.

Henin-Hardenne beat Lisa Raymond 6-4, 6-3, Davenport got past No. 26 Elena Bovina 7-6 (7), 6-2 and Williams defeated No. 20 Chanda Rubin 7-1 (4), 6-3 at night.

"This is one of the first times in a year that I've felt normal on the court. It's been so challenging," said 2000-01 Open champ Williams, who missed the 2003 tournament with an abdominal strain.

"Today is the first day that I started to feel like I did before I was injured."

No. 5 Henman outlasted Czech qualifier Michael Tabach 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, 6-3, while Federer's 6-0, 6-4, 7-6 (7) victory over No. 31 Fabrice Santoro put him in the zone of 16 for the fourth straight year.

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Spangdahlem wins sugfest, Army-Air Force men's title

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — The jets weren't flying, but the softballers were.

Spangdahlem and Aviano, the Air Force's two F-16 fighter bases in Europe, spent more than four hours launching less lethal projectiles at each other Sunday. When the dust cleared off the red clay outfield, the Sabers came out on top to claim the 2004 Army-Air Force Softball Championship.

"We're getting a good rivalry with them again," Spangdahlem coach Chris Heffner said after watching his team prevail 26-24 in eight innings. "It's a good rivalry. But it's a friendly rivalry."

Ramstein rolled by Heidelberg 14-5 in the women's title game.

Men

Aviano fell to Spangdahlem 14-3 Saturday, but came back through the loser's bracket and forced a second game Sunday by beating Spangdahlem 18-12 in the first game.

The Dragons appeared to carry momentum into the second game and led 19-14 after five innings. But Pat Boot's three-run homer in the third brought Spangdahlem closer, and a run in the top of the seventh tied it.

Aviano, needing just a run in the bottom half to win it, couldn't squeeze one across. Spangdahlem led the field first up.

"It turned the tide for them," Aviano coach Ed Michaud said.

The Sabers scored seven runs in the eighth, keyed by two home runs from Ben Ernst and Arturo Tejada and two Aviano errors.

The Dragons came right back in the bottom half as the first five batters reached base and scored. But with a runner on second, Spangdahlem pitcher Clifford Gonzalez coaxed three straight flies to the outfield to end it.

"We just felt a little short to them again," said Michaud, whose team lost to Spangdahlem 21-17 for the Air Force title three days earlier.

Ernst, Bo Brewer and Mike Kriss each had four of Spangdahlem's 29 hits, with Gonzalez, A.J. Oldfather, Tejada and Boot driving in three runs.

Ryan Feltz had five hits for Aviano, with Chad Ward and Luis Rotger driving in four runs apiece.

In the opener, Jason Mathias had three home runs among five hits and drove in six runs for Aviano, with Feltz adding two home runs and two singles. Brewer and Dale Wright had three hits each for the Sabers.

Women

The Lady Rams won their second straight title in convincing fashion, narrowly missing a mercy-rule victory after five innings.

Coach Keith Baber's team doesn't need much assistance to score runs. But Heidelberg helped out, committing a series of costly errors as Ramstein scored early and often. Seven hits and five errors gave the Rams a 10-0 lead after two innings.

"We just didn't play up to our abilities," Heidelberg coach Darryl Leonard said. "We picked the worst time to play our worst game of the tournament."

"But they're a great team. You can't take anything away from them."

Nessa Burnett's two-run single in the first got things started. Eboni Howard did much of the damage after that, driving in four runs with a double and two singles. Sherrie Mabry drove in three more.

"I'm really proud of this team," Baber said. "We just had a phenomenal year."

Tiffany Collins and Mary Espinal had two hits each for Heidelberg, which had to come all the way back through the loser's bracket to reach the final game after losing a close game to Ramstein to open the tournament.

Mail Kent Harris at: harris@mal.estripes.osd.mil

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com

U.S. men's soccer team defeats El Salvador

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — Brian Ching got another big goal, and the United States received the gift of jewelry.

Ching scored just five minutes in on the Americans' first shot, as El Salvador was forced to play a man short after a defender was ejected midway through the first half for wearing a gold chain.

Landon Donovan went on to score a second-half goal, and the United States won 2-0 Saturday to move into good position to advance to the regional finals of qualifying for the 2006 World Cup.

"I think it's terrible," U.S. captain Claudio Reyna said of the ejection. "It's a bad call. It's a shame. They should have given him a warning."

Denis Alas, a 19-year-old El Salvador player, was given a yellow card in the eighth minute for a rough tackle on Bobby Convey. U.S. players then pointed out to the officials that Alas was wearing a chain, and referee Brian Zeman of Trinidad and Tobago assessed a second yellow in the 26th minute — resulting in a red card and an automatic ejection.

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No. 15 Clemson wins in 2OT, avoids second upset by Wake

The Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — Charlie Whitehurst threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Kyle Browning in the second overtime that lifted No. 15 Clemson to a 37-30 victory over Wake Forest on Saturday.

The Tigers (1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) led 19-3 early in the second quarter and looked intent on beating the Demon Deacons as thoroughly as Clemson got beat in a 45-17 defeat at Wake Forest a season ago.

But the Deacons (0-1) rallied for 24 straight points and led 27-19 after Chris Barclay's 50-yard touchdown run with 12:20 to go in the game.

The Tigers rediscovered their offense when it counted.

Whitehurst, starting at his 22 with 6:35 left, completed passes of 16 and 19 yards to Chansi Stuckey, then hit Aiesee Currie with an 8-yard completion to get inside Wake's 10. A pass interference call on fourth-and-goal kept the drive alive and Yusuf Kelly leaped over the pile from a yard out for Clemson's first points in nearly 40 minutes.

Kelvin Grant pulled down the tying conversion on a perfectly lofted ball into the left corner of the end zone to send it to overtime.

The teams traded field goals in the first extra session. Then Whitehurst found Barclay on a screen pass to give Clemson the lead.

Wake Forest could not respond. Jason Anderson juggled a pass out of bounds. Chris Barclay, who ran for 179 yards, was stopped at the line of scrimmage. Cory Randolph's final two throws went incomplete.

Whitehurst was 20-for-41 for 288 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions. Currie caught nine passes for 152 yards and Stuckey, a converted quarterback, had eight receptions for 112 yards.

In other Top 25 games Saturday:

No. 2 Oklahoma 40, Bowling Green 24: At Norman, Okla., Kejuan Jones rushed for a career-high 148 yards and a touchdown, and Mark Clayton caught a pass from Jason White's three touchdowns passes for the Sooners.

AP Top 25 roundup

White, the returning Heisman Trophy winner, completed 21 of 34 passes for 238 yards, but also threw an interception that was returned for a touchdown.

Adrian Peterson, the Sooners' top-rated, high-school recruit, flashed brilliance with a 35-yard touchdown run and finished with 100 yards on 16 carries.

No. 3 Georgia 65, Ga. Southern 28: At Athens, Ga., Danny Ware rushed for 135 yards and three touchdowns in his college debut for the Bulldogs.

Ware was the first freshman running back to start his first game at Georgia since 1943. He opened the scoring for Georgia with a 10-yard touchdown run. He added a 3-yard scoring run early in the third quarter, helping the Bulldogs pull away from a close game at halftime.

No. 7 Texas 65, North Texas 0: At Austin, Texas, Cedric Benson ran for 181 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Longhorns' punishing rushing attack. Benson, who ranks third in career yards at Texas behind Heisman Trophy winners Ricky Williams and Earl Campbell, had 141 yards as Texas cruised to a 44-0 halftime lead.

No. 8 Michigan 43, Miami, Ohio 10: At Ann Arbor, Mich., Freshman Chad Henne threw two touchdowns in a surprising start for Michigan, helping the Wolverines to an easy victory over the RedHawks that ended the nation's longest winning streak.

Diego Gutierrez was supposed to start, but he was relegated to holding on kicks because of a sore arm, creating an opportunity for Henne. Rich Leach is the only other quarterback to start as a freshman in a season opener for the Wolverines. Leach led Michigan to a victory on Sept. 13, 1975, at Wisconsin.

Henne was 14-for-24 for 142 yards with one interception. Braylon Edwards caught six passes for 91 yards and two TDs, and David Underwood gained 61 yards with two touchdowns on 22 carries.

The RedHawks (1-1) had won 14 straight games.

No. 9 Ohio State 27, Cincinnati 6: At Columbus, Ohio, Lydell Ross rushed for 141 yards and a touchdown, and Ohio State's swarming defense stymied Cincinnati.

Justin Zwick threw two interceptions and had four fumbles in his first start for the Buckeyes. He completed 14 of 26 passes for 213 yards and a touchdown. Backup Troy Smith played far less but produced two scores in three drives, including a TD pass.

No. 10 West Virginia 56, East Carolina 23: At Morgantown, W.Va., Kay-Jay Harris rushed for a school-record 337 yards and four touchdowns for the Mountaineers.

Harris broke the school record of 291 yards set by Kerry Marbury in 1971 against Temple. It also was a Big East record, eclipsing the mark of 299 set by Miami's Edgerrin James in 1998 against UCLA.

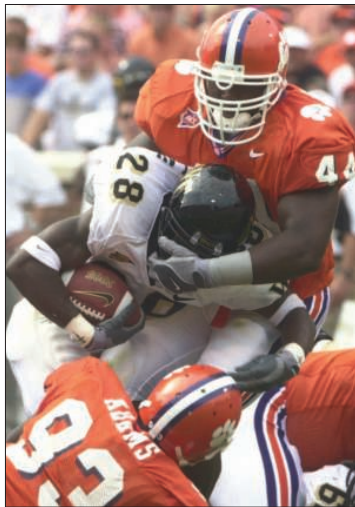
No. 12 Kansas St. 27, W. Kentucky 13: At Manhattan, Kan., Darren Spores ran for 221 yards and a touchdown on 42 carries, leading the Wildcats past the Division I-AA Hilltoppers.

Spores, the nation's leading rusher with 1,986 yards last season, improved his school record with his 20th 100-yard game. He has gone over 200 yards in four of his last six games. After his 32-yard touchdown run for a 17-6 lead in the third quarter, he needs two more touchdowns to tie El Robertson for the Wildcats' career record of 40.

No. 17 Auburn 31, La-Monroe 0: At Auburn, Ala., Jason Campbell passed for two touchdowns and Carnell Williams ran for 103 yards as the Tigers unveiled a new West Coast offense.

Auburn's new system sputtered at times but still fared better than in last year's opening shutout defeat to Southern California that set the stage for a disappointing season.

No. 18 Missouri 52, Arkansas St. 20: At Columbia, Mo., Brad Smith threw for 233 yards and three touchdowns and ran for 63 yards and a score for the Tigers.



Wake Forest's Chris Barclay (28) gets wrapped up by Clemson's Donnell Clark (44) and Gaines Adams (93) on Saturday at Memorial Stadium in Clemson, S.C. Clemson won 37-30 in double overtime.

Smith, a junior who ran for 1,406 yards and passed for 1,977 last season, averaged 10.5 yards on six carries and scored on a 34-yard second-quarter run. He completed 14 of 22 passes, with the three touchdowns and one interception.

No. 19 Iowa 39, Kent St. 7: At Iowa City, Iowa, Drew Tate threw two touchdowns in his first start and the Hawkeyes turned in a dominating defensive performance.

The Hawkeyes held the Golden Flashes to 110 total yards and minus-13 yards rushing.

No. 22 Maryland 23, Northern Illinois 20: At College Park, Md., Nick Novak became the leading scorer in Atlantic Coast Conference history, kicking three field goals and PATs to rescue the erratic Maryland offense.

Novak kicked field goals of 43, 34, and 44 yards. His 11-point night gave him a career total of

335, breaking the record of 326 set by Scott Bentley of Florida State.

The victory enabled Maryland to improve to 20-1 at home under fourth-year coach Ralph Friedgen, who is 32-8 since taking over at his alma mater. The Terrapins also gained a measure of revenge against the Huskies, who upset Maryland last year in Illinois.

No. 25 Minnesota 63, Toledo 21: At Minneapolis, Bryan Cupito was 10-for-10 for 279 yards and a touchdown in his first start, and Minnesota's running backs picked up where they left off last season.

Marion Barber III and Laurence Maroney, looking to become the first tandem in NCAA history to rush for 1,000 yards each in consecutive seasons, scored two TDs apiece before halftime to help Minnesota build a 42-7 lead in the opener for both teams.

Division I-AA Florida Atlantic stuns Hawaii in overtime

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Doug Parker scored on a 7-yard run in overtime as Division I-AA Florida Atlantic rallied to upset Hawaii 35-28 Saturday night in the season opener for both teams.

After the Warriors failed to get into the end zone in overtime, the Owls poured onto the field at Aloha Stadium and celebrated as thousands of stunned Hawaii fans looked on.

FAU tied the game 28-28 on Jared Allen's 31-yard touchdown pass. Anthony Crisinger ran with 23 seconds left in regulation. The Owls had a chance to win in

regulation, but their extra-point attempt was blocked, sending the game into overtime.

Hawaii quarterback Timmy Chang was 38-of-66 for 302 yards and two TDs.

Chang moved closer to becoming the most prolific passer in college history. The senior now has 13,116 career passing yards — 916 yards shy of becoming the 15-year-old NCAA career passing mark of 15,031 set by BYU's Ty Detmer.

Colorado 27, Colorado St. 24: At Boulder, Colo., Bobby Purty ran for 189 yards and a touchdown and J.J. Billingsley made a game-saving tackle as time expired, helping the Buffaloes hold off the Rams in the opener for both teams.

Nebraska 56, Western Illinois 17: At Lincoln, Neb., the Cornhuskers scored three touchdowns in five minutes in the second quarter and were never threatened by their Division I-AA opponent.

Joe Dailey threw for four touchdowns for two others, and Cory Ross and Tierre Green each rushed for more than 100 yards to

highlight Bill Callahan's first game as head coach.

Dailey completed 15 of 35 passes for 218 yards.

N.C. State 42, Richmond 0: At Raleigh, N.C., Jay Davis threw two touchdowns passes in his first chance as Philip Rivers' replacement, leading the Wolfpack past Division I-AA Richmond.

Alabama 48, Utah St. 17: At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Brodie Croyle threw two touchdowns passes and Alabama took its first step toward rebounding from a losing season.

Troy 17, Marshall 15: At Huntington, W.Va., DeWhitt Betterston

rushed for the go-ahead touchdown and the Trojans' defense held the Thundering Herd to 177 total yards.

Penn State 48, Akron 10: At State College, Pa., Zack Mills ran for a touchdown, caught a TD and threw two scoring passes to lead the Nittany Lions over the Zips.

North Carolina 49, William & Mary 28: At Chapel Hill, N.C., Ronnie McGill rushed for three fourth-quarter touchdowns and the Tar Heels rallied from a 10-point third-quarter deficit to beat the Division I-AA Tribe, giving coach John Bunting his first season-opening win in four tries.

Croom, Bulldogs' winners in historic debut

First black head coach in SEC leads Mississippi State over Tulane

BY JOEY MCCREARY
The Associated Press

STARKVILLE, Miss. — Sylvester Croom needed just one game to make Mississippi State feel like a winner again.

Croom won his head coaching debut, with Jerious Norwood running for 112 yards and a touchdown in the Bulldogs' 28-7 victory over Tulane on Saturday night.

"Even on the bus ride here, I thought you were 'Twenty-eight yards working toward this day, and now it's here,'" Croom said.

"A dream that was an impossible dream at one time today was a reality."

The Bulldogs held their hel-

ments in hand, whooping and dancing around Croom, the first black head football coach in Southeastern Conference history, as the clock expired. Flashbuds sparked throughout Scott Field, and Croom jogged off to a standing ovation from the crowd.

Croom, a longtime NFL assistant, was passed over by his alma mater Alabama when its coaching job came open last year. The Tuscaloosa native Bryant and coached under Bear Bryant and was crushed when the Crimson Tide chose Mike Shula over him.

So, Croom took his years of experience at West Coast offense to Starkville, where the Bulldogs were looking for someone to rebuild a struggling program.

"Anything less than a conference championship or a national championship, I don't know if I could be much more proud of these guys because of how much they've grown up since last December," Croom said.

Mississippi State hired Croom just days after the 2003 season ended to replace Jackie Sherrill.

Omar Conner threw for 135 yards and a touchdown in his first start at quarterback for the Bulldogs, who scored on their first two possessions of the second half to break a scoreless tie.

"Coach let us know that we are the hardest-working, hardest-conditioning team in the nation," Conner said. "[Croom] gave us a

great talk at the half, and we came out motivated. Everybody just put it together."

Mississippi State, which has just eight victories in the last three seasons, has a winning record for the first time since winning the 2001 opener against Memphis — when this year's seniors were freshmen.

Tulane closed to 14-7 early in the fourth quarter on Lester Ricard's 59-yard touchdown pass to Chris Bush.

But the Bulldogs countered on their next series, when Norwood's 43-yard off-tackle run set up Fred Reid's 5-yard TD run to make it 21-7.

Tulane (0-1) didn't reach mid-field the rest of the way.

Biffle edges Mears for Busch win in California

BY MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

FONTANA, Calif. — Greg Biffle won a nearly race-long duel with Casey Mears, pulling away over the last two laps to capture the NASCAR Busch Series race Saturday at California Speedway.

The two Nextel Cup regulars dominated the 150-lap Target House 300, leading all but 33 laps between them. The pair swapped the lead twice in the last seven trips around the 2-mile oval before Biffle took the top spot for good two laps from the end and drove off his fifth win of the season and the 16th of his career.

Biffle, who led a race-high 72 laps, complained to his crew throughout the race that his Roush Racing Ford was down on power, but managed to beat Mears with superior handling.

"I've never been at a disadvantage like that in my life," Biffle said. "He was a lot stronger than me on the straights, but I could loosen him up in the corners and he had trouble putting the gas down in the corner. Once I could break that draft and get about six car lengths, I could get away from him."

Biffle wound up winning by 0.356 seconds — about four car-lengths — over Mears' Chip Ganassi Racing Dodge.

"I would have liked to have won my first Busch race, but that was the most fun race I've ever been involved in," said Mears, the nephew of four-time Indianapolis 500 winner Rick Mears and a native of nearby Bakersfield. "I was pretty loose, but it was a good race and Biffle raced me clean. I'll go home pretty happy with this one."

Kevin Harvick finished third, followed by Casey Kahne, Jamie McMurray and Kahne leader Martin Truex Jr. Kyle Busch slipped up ninth and slipped to the 95th place behind Truex in the race for the series title.

Biffle had built a lead of nearly four seconds over Mears late in the race when debris brought on the third caution of the day on lap 135. Jason Leffler stayed on track and took the lead, but Biffle charged back to third place on the restart on lap 139 to regain the top spot with Mears, who restarted sixth, surging back to second.

Mears, who started from the pole in the 149-lap, stayed near the top of the banking and zoomed past Biffle on lap 143. But Biffle, who now has two straight Busch victories at the California track, got back out front on lap 144 as a stalled car brought out the final caution.

Mears got another shot at Biffle on the final restart on lap 147, but Biffle's lap 148 stay near the top of the banking to pass for the final time on lap 149 and steadily pulled away.

Midshipmen beat Blue Devils in opener

Quarterback Polanco accounts for 259 yards, two touchdowns in 27-12 victory over Duke

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Aaron Polanco threw a touchdown pass, ran for another score and finished with 259 yards of offense to help Navy beat Duke 27-12 on Saturday night in the season opener for both teams.

Polanco ran for 130 yards on 23 carries and was 8-for-9 passing for 129 yards, including a 38-yard touchdown pass to Jason Tomlinson at the end of the first half.

Kyle Eckel fumbled twice in the first half for Navy, but scored on a pair of 3-yard runs in the second half. He finished with 200 yards on 23 carries.

"We moved the ball well in the first half, but we just turned it over," Navy coach Paul Johnson said. "Once Aaron settled down, I thought he played well."

Polanco carried the ball for most of the yardage on Navy's

final 59-yard drive, which ended with Eckel's second score with 3:06 to play.

Navy, which led the nation in rushing last season, gained 301 yards on the ground and had 430 yards of offense.

"It is always good to get a win, especially with how we played in the first half," Polanco said. "We had some trouble holding on to the ball, but once we did, we settled it down."

Polanco's scoring pass to Tomlinson with 12 seconds left in the first half tied the game at 6.

Duke's Cedric Dargun rushed for a career-best 114 yards on 20 carries. He had 101 yards on 17 carries in the first half.

Duke used two quarterbacks. Mike Schneider was 8-for-13 passing for 59 yards, and Chris Dapollito was 5-for-7 for 51 yards.

Led by Lane Jackson's 12 tackles, Navy held Duke to 265 yards.



Navy QB Aaron Polanco, left, is tackled by Duke linebacker Malcolm Ruff during the first half Saturday in Annapolis, Md. Polanco rushed for 130 yards.

Nov 27, Duke 12

Duke 3 6 10-27

Duke 6 14 7-27

First Quarter

Duke—FG Mikros 29, 25-0.

Second Quarter

Duke—FG Mikros 35, 61-7.

Nov—Tomlinson 58 pass from Polanco (kick failed), 25-7.

Third Quarter

Navy—Polanco 2 run (Blumenfeld kick), 34-7.

Duke—Dapollito 5 run (kick failed), 43-7.

Navy—Eckel 3 run (Blumenfeld kick), 35-6.

Nov—29:07.

Fourth Quarter

Duke—Navy

First downs

Rushes—Yards

Passing

Completions

Interceptions

Return Yards

Punts—Avg.

Fumbles—Lost

Penalties—Yards

Time of Possession

29:17 30:43

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Duke: Dargun 28, 114; Polanco 10, 51.

Navy: Polanco 28, 114; Eckel 10, 51.

Receiving—Duke: Schneider 7, 121; Polanco 1, 10.

Navy: Polanco 1, 10; Eckel 1, 10.

Passing—Duke: Schneider 13, 89; Dapollito 5, 51.

Navy: Polanco 9, 129; Eckel 5, 51.

Receiving—Duke: Schneider 13, 89; Dapollito 5, 51.

Navy: Polanco 9, 129; Eckel 5, 51.

Interceptions—Duke: 1; Navy: Tomlinson 1.

Penalties—Duke: 12, 101; Navy: 12, 101.

Time of Possession—Duke: 29:17; Navy: 30:43.

Schiano scores biggest victory as Rutgers coach

BY TOM CANAVAN
The Associated Press

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Freshman Jeremy Hight kicked four field goals and Ryan Neill scored on a 31-yard interception return to lead improving Rutgers to a 19-14 victory over Michigan State on Saturday.

The victory was coach Greg Schiano's biggest since coming to Rutgers in December 2000, and it gave the Scarlet Knights renewed hope for their first winning season since 1992.

Michigan State, which went to the Alamo Bowl last year in John L. Smith's first season as coach, made Rutgers sweat out the final minutes, driving to the Scarlet Knights' 25 with less than two minutes to play.

Damon Dowdell missed an

open Jeramy Scott in the end zone on third down and Eric Knott was tackled short of a first down on a screen pass on fourth down.

After running out the clock, Rutgers players jumped for joy and hundreds of fans in the stadium-crowded crowd of 42,612 — which included Rutgers alumni and James Gandolfini, star of the HBO series "The Sopranos" — joined the celebration.

It converted from 24, 27, 43 and 42 yards in attempting a school-record seven field goals, with the first five tries coming to the Scarlet Knights' first five possessions.

Despite outgaining Michigan State 273-159 and holding the ball more than twice as long as the Spartans in the first half, Rutgers trailed 7-6 at halftime.

Kicked: National champion LSU looks shaky in opening victory

KICKED, FROM BACK PAGE

A heavy storm moved over the stadium just before kickoff.

Offsides sent the players back to the locker rooms because of lightning in the area. Kickoff was delayed almost an hour and the field was sloppy when play began.

LSU's offense was sloppy throughout. The Tigers showed no signs of the methodical offense that helped them win a championship last season.

Randall, who replaced Matt Mauck at quarterback, got off to a rough start. His first pass was intercepted and he completed only seven of 18 for 66 yards. He was replaced at the start of the second half by Russell, who was 9-for-26 for 145 yards and three touchdowns.

The Tigers generated only 93 yards (39 passing) and four first downs in the first half.

Oregon State got an early break, recovering a fumble on the opening kickoff to set up on the LSU 25. They followed that with three straight penalties that gave them first-and-35 on the 5.

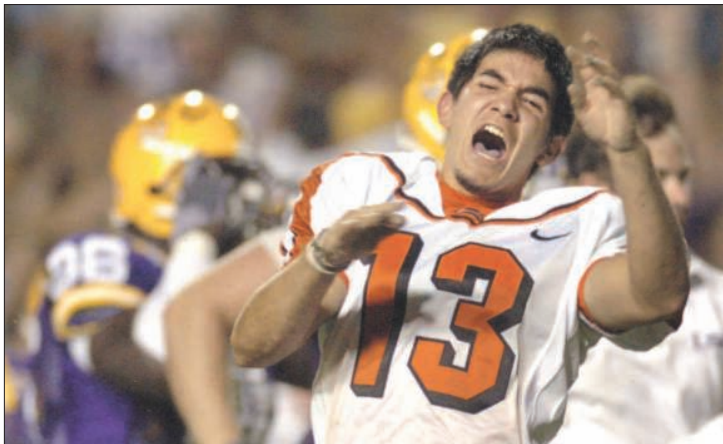
Anderson completed five of six passes, including a 6-yard touchdown toss to George Orlert, to put the Beavers up 6-0 after Serna's first missed PAT. Anderson, who passed for 4,058 yards with 24 touchdowns and 24 interceptions in 2003, was 36-for-47 for 221 yards and three touchdowns. He had one interception and was sacked four times.

"This really hurt," Anderson said. "I'm not going to lie. We went out there and fought. I love my team and appreciate everything we did. We tried hard out there and just came up a little short."

SPORTS



With troubles at home in mind,
Sharapova taking defeat in stride,
Page 31



Oregon State kicker Alexis Serna shouts in dismay after missing the PAT in overtime that allowed No. 4 LSU to escape with a 22-21 victory Saturday at Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge, La. Serna made a 40-yard field goal but missed three extra points in the game.



**American League:
Ichiro moves
closer to Sisler's
hits record;
Red Sox's streak
stopped at 10**

Page 28



**Edmonds hits
300th homer
as Cardinals win
season-high eighth
straight game**

Page 28



**Spangdahlem,
Ramstein win
Army-Air Force
softball titles**

Page 31

Kicked in the gut

No. 4 LSU prevails when Oregon St. misses 3rd extra point

BY MARY FOSTER
The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — LSU got lucky, and Nick Saban knew it.

"We've got a lot of work to do as a team," the Tigers' coach said. "I think everyone knows that."

Oregon State's Alexis Serna missed three extra points Saturday night, including one that would have forced a second overtime, and No. 4 LSU escaped with a 22-21 victory over the Beavers in the season opener.

"It was a crazy finish," LSU defensive end Marcus Spears said.

"We fought as long as we could fight, and fortunately he missed that extra point. I'd like to think that we had something to do with that. We got a lot of pressure up the middle and I guess he took his eye off it."

The defending BCS champion Tigers trailed throughout the game, were shut out in the first half and behind 15-7 with 1:38 left.

The Tigers seemed sure to lose when they drove to the Oregon State 2 and failed to score with 3:39 left. But their defense gave them another shot.

LSU got the ball back for their final possession of regulation with 1:38 left. After JaMarcus Russell threw two incompletions, he

**More college
football inside:**

■ **Sylvester Croom makes historic debut at helm of Mississippi State, Page 35**

■ **AP Top 25: Clemson barely avoids another upset loss to Wake Forest, Page 34**

■ **Fighting Irish get off to bad start with loss at BYU, Page 33**

■ **Complete scores list, Top 25 summaries, Pages 32-33**



Croom

hooked up with Dwayne Bowe for a 26-yarder then a 38-yard touchdown to cut Oregon State's lead to 15-13 with 1:05 left.

"I told the QB to trust me," Bowe said. "I said I'm not even going to run the route you call, I'm just going to get open. I was able to do that and in two plays I scored."

On the conversion, Russell ran to the left,

stretched out the football and leaped into the end zone for two points to tie it at 15 and force overtime.

Oregon State won the toss but deferred in overtime. LSU scored on its first possession. Marcus Randall, who started the game at quarterback, came in when Russell was injured and ran for a 5-yard touchdown, giving LSU its first lead of the game, 22-15 with the extra point.

The Beavers weren't done.

Derek Anderson found Joe Newton with a 19-yard scoring pass, pulling the Beavers to 22-21.

Serna, a redshirt freshman who kicked a 40-yard field goal in the second quarter, sent the extra point wide right, giving LSU the victory.

"I told him there is not a lot you can say," Oregon State coach Mike Riley said. "It feels bad."

Riley said he tried to call a timeout before the PAT attempt to consider whether to kick or try for a two-point conversion, but was unable to get the officials' attention.

"I just wanted to think about it," Riley said. "I didn't have my mind made up. But we had one timeout in the overtime period, so I was going to use it."

SEE KICKED ON PAGE 35

U.S. men beat El Salvador in World Cup qualifier

Page 31

